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Journal of English and Foreign Literature, Science, and the Fine Arts.

No. 1260.

LONDON, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1851.

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[JAMES HOLMES, TOOK'S COURT, CHANCERY LANE.]

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, That the following CLASSICAL SUBJECTS have been selected for Examination in this University in the Year 1852: viz.—

For the MATRICULATION EXAMINATION:—
HOMER—*Odyssey*, Book XI.

LVII.—Book III.

For the Examination for the Degree of BACHELOR OF ARTS:—

DE DEMOSTHENES—*De Corone*.

Horace—*Odes*, *Elegies*, and *Aras Poetica*.

By order of the Senate.

R. W. ROTHMAN, Registrar.

Somerset House, December 18, 1851.

BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.—
NOTICE to MEMBERS and CONTRIBUTORS of
BRITISH SPECIMENS.—EDINBURGH, the 31st Inst. will
be the LAST DAY for receiving Specimens to entitle Members
to participate in the distribution of the Duplicates in February.

G. E. DENNES, Secretary.

5, Bedford-street, Strand, Dec. 18, 1851.

ARUNDEL SOCIETY.—ELGIN MARBLES.—
—CASTS from Mr. Cheverton's reduction of the THESES (to which the Gold Medal was awarded at the Great Exhibition) may be obtained on application to Mr. Mackay, at Messrs. P. & D. Colnaghi, 13 and 14, Pall-mall East. Price 2s. (or to Members of the Arundel Society, 1s. 6d.)

CASTS of the ILLIUS, recently reduced by Mr. Cheverton to the same scale, may be had on the same terms.

By order of the Council.

G. AUBREY BEZZI, Hon. Sec.

Office of the Arundel Society, Nov. 5, 1851.

AKLUYT SOCIETY, established for the
purpose of Printing Rare or Unpublished Voyages and Travels.

The First Volume of NOTES UPON RUSSIA, being a Translation of the Earliest Account of that Country, entitled *REURUM AUCOVITICARUM COMMENTARII*, by the Baron Sigismund von Herberstein, Ambassador from the Court of Germany to the Grand Princes of Russia, Translated and Edited with Notes, and an Introduction, by R. H. Major, Esq., of the British Museum, is now ready for the Subscribers of 1851, and will be delivered by Mr. Richards, 27, Great Queen-street, Lincoln's Inn-fields, to whom all directions on the subject may be addressed.

The Second Volume of the same Work, and also CAPTAIN WILLIAM COAT'S Remarks on many VOYAGES to HUDDSON'S BAY, from an unpublished Manuscript. Edited by John Barrow, Esq., of the Admiralty, are now at press, and will appear shortly.

Annual Subscription, One Guinea. Names and Subscriptions are received by the Society's Bankers, Messrs. Bouvier & Co., 11, Haymarket; by the Secretary, R. H. Major, Esq., 4, Albion-place, Camberwell-square, Islington; and by Mr. Richards, the Society's Vice, 2, Great Queen-street, Lincoln's Inn-fields.

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On the 20th of February, and the 2nd, 9th, 16th, and 23rd of

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December, 1851.

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LONDON, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1851.

REVIEWS

Letters on Turkey—[*Lettres sur la Turquie*].

By M. Ubicini. Part I. Paris, Guillaumin. TURKEY is a state that has a twofold interest,—arising from its history and from its important relations to the balance of power in Europe. It is more widely separated from the European family of nations by differences of religion and of law than many more remote countries. Its political importance arises from its geographical position; which, if in the possession of Russia, would give to the Czar the means of maintaining a vast maritime force. As Hungary in the age of Charles the Fifth was regarded as a bulwark against the Turks,—so is the land of the Turk now looked on by the statesmen of Western Europe as the point at which the ambition of Russia is to be encountered. Potemkin's inscription on the southern gate of Cherson—“This is the road to Constantinople”—is accepted as shadowing forth the policy of Russia. Whether such an opinion be exaggerated, it is not our business to discuss.

M. Ubicini, the author of the able volume before us, appears to be one of those travelling journalists who have effected a new development of the press. Armed with credentials as “our own correspondents,” they scour various lands, collect statistical tables, describe trades and manufactures, and, like the auctioneer in “*Le Belle’s Stratagem*,” discuss every subject “from a riband to a Raphael.” Some other time we may perhaps enter into the question whether the public be better served by newspaper travellers or by independent tourists. We content ourselves now with saying, that we have seen very good and very bad specimens of the former class. Amongst the best that have come under our notice is M. Ubicini, — whose present volume is reprinted, with some retrenchments, from the columns of the *Moniteur*. His book contains a thorough and scientific analysis of the social condition and resources of Turkey. It is not written for literary effect, nor made up of picturesque descriptions:—its interest and value arise from its economic survey of the strength and weakness of Turkey. Of the author we know nothing. His name indicates a Southern origin; and his thinking is broader and more tolerant than that of the merely Parisian philosopher. There is throughout his volume a conscientious study of his subject that is highly praiseworthy. But though valuable to the economist and politician, the book is not likely to be interesting to those who read merely for amusement.

From a variety of causes, Turkey has been during the last thirty years in a state of internal transition. About 1832, when the Turkish question occupied the attention of both England and France, the computation used to be that the Sultan ruled over forty millions of subjects. In 1844 a census was taken through the empire, and the result was as follows.—

Races.	Europe.	Asia.	Africa.	Total.
Ottomans	1,100,000	10,700,000		11,800,000
Sclavonians	7,200,000			7,200,000
Roumellians	4,000,000			4,000,000
Armauts	1,500,000			1,500,000
Greeks	1,000,000	1,000,000		2,000,000
Armenians	400,000	2,000,000		2,400,000
Jews	70,000	100,000		170,000
Tartars	230,000			230,000
Arabs		900,000	3,800,000	4,700,000
Syrians & Chaldeans		235,000		235,000
Druses		25,000		25,000
Kurds	1,000,000			1,000,000
Turcomans		90,000		90,000
	15,500,000	16,050,000	3,800,000	35,350,000

—Thus, according to the Turkish authority, the whole population was found to be less by five millions than was supposed.—A glance at the table will point to yet more important facts. In a small space, and with few words, it represents the want of unity and the discordance of the populations subject to the Sultan. To keep such a state together would require an expenditure of force leaving little reserve against external aggression,—and suggesting that but for foreign aid the whole Turkish empire would crumble to fragments. The diplomacy of Western Europe prevented Turkey from falling into the grasp of Mohammed Ali. In the political weakness of such a power, and in its geographical site, we see the certainty that in the next European war Turkey will be an object of cupidity and contest. Russian and French ambition will be directed towards the land of the Sultan.

The administration of the Turkish Empire is closely described by M. Ubicini. The government is an absolute monarchy, tempered by fixed institutions, and by traditional manners so inflexible as to modify the action of the ruling power within certain limits:—illustrating Hume’s sagacious aphorism, that, “All power, even the most despotic, is ultimately founded upon opinion.” The reigning Sultan, Abdul-Medjid, ascended the throne on the 1st of July 1839, and takes the title of Emperor (or Padishah) of the Ottomans. He names his Vizier, (an office dating from 750 A.D.) in whose hands ministerial power is deposited. The Ulema is a sort of council, at once judicial and ecclesiastical, and exercises a power analogous to our Privy Council. The Sheik-ul-Islam ranks in the hierarchy with the Vizier, and receives 100,000 piastres (920*l.*) per month. He is the chief of the Ulema,—and is sometimes called the Mufti; and he exercises functions similar to a Lord Chancellor and Archbishop of Canterbury.

From the conduct pursued by the Sultan in the case of Kossuth, our readers may be curious to know something of the present Turkish cabinet. It is thus composed:—1. The Vizier, or Salvi-azam (Prime Minister), is Moustafa Rechid Pacha. He was first named Vizier in 1846, and is a decided promoter of reform, and friend to liberal progress in Turkey. He has great experience and a wide knowledge of life; having been referendary to the Divan in 1834, afterwards ambassador at London and Paris, and subsequently minister at Constantinople for foreign affairs. 2. The Mufti, or Sheik-ul-Islam, is Arif Hakmet Bey Effendi. 3. Mohammed-Ali Pacha (brother-in-law of the Sultan) is the Ser-asker, or Secretary at War. 4. Alimed-Fethi Pacha (also brother-in-law to the Sultan) is Minister of the Ordnance; he was formerly ambassador at Vienna and Paris. 5. Sulemin Pacha is the capitan pacha, or “First Lord of the Admiralty.” He was ambassador at Paris in 1848, and in the same year was an envoy on the frontier between Austria. 6. Aali-Pacha is the Secretary for Foreign Affairs. He was formerly secretary to the Turkish embassy at Paris. He is a zealous supporter of the cause of progress, and belongs to the school of the Vizier, of whom he is the attached friend and indefatigable ally. Doubtless these two ministers exercised great weight on the Sultan’s decision in the case of Kossuth; and their own personal knowledge of the ruling powers at Paris and London must not a little have contributed to give the Turkish cabinet its firmness of resolve. There are other ministers of less influence and weight.

There is no want, as M. Ubicini shows, of institutions in Turkey. He gives a careful detail of the whole apparatus of authority,—and exhibits a large and well planned administrative

system. But the spirit of Turkish life is stagnant and retrograde. The religion of Islam, according to M. Ubicini, is the cause of the backward state of Turkey. Its principles are so fixed as to be incapable of adaptation to the variety that the human mind craves for. The stamp of divinity and eternity with which the creed of Islam affects to mark its institutions will be the sure cause of its fall. Thus, every innovator in Turkey, according to our author, is a sort of scoffer, who assails institutions supposed to have originated in a divine source. Our author philosophically contrasts Christianity and Mohammedanism;—fixing attention on the fact that the former recognizes the separation between Church and State. He devotes an entire chapter to an analysis of the Koran, which he has executed with great ability; and urges strongly on metaphysical grounds that the fatalism of the creed of Islam must paralyse the will and cripple the mental energy of its votaries.

The history of the press in Turkey is very curious,—and has so much suggestiveness, that it reads like an apologue from the ‘Spectator.’ The first Turkish press dates from the time of Ahmed the Third (1727). At that time there existed at Constantinople several Hebrew, Greek, and Armenian presses. So long since as 1488 there had been a Hebrew lexicon printed at Constantinople. Towards the middle of the seventeenth century the Greek and Armenian presses were in full activity there. In spite of this, every attempt up to 1727 to introduce printing for the Turks themselves had completely failed. In the month of October 1720, Mohammed Effendi was sent as ambassador to Paris, with the secret mission of endeavouring to penetrate the policy of the great Christian powers. He was accompanied on his travels by his son Said Effendi. The latter was greatly struck by the results of printing at Paris; and noted with attention the progress of the West of Europe, and the decline of the East, since the invention of printing. On his return to Constantinople, Said communicated his thoughts to a Hungarian renegade of the name of Ibrahim; who immediately drew up a memoir for the reigning Sultan on the vast advantages likely to result from Turkish printing presses.

Mark what followed! At the very sound of the innovation there was great alarm at Constantinople. Those springs of action called by Bentham “interest-begotten prejudices” were soon in full play. The members of the Ulema saw their downfall in the rise of the press. In order to maintain their political ascendancy they pretended that the creed of Islam was in danger. They even went so far as to represent the new-fangled project as a profanation of human thought, which they said “had always been transmitted by writing, and which ought not to be divulged by any other mode.” There came an outcry from the fifteen thousand Kiatib, or scriveners, who lived by copying manuscripts. These threatened to stone whoever desired to set up printing presses. Nor were the amateurs of the calligraphic art without sentimental grief at the demand being likely to cease for beautiful specimens of penmanship. But the Mufti was firm, and advised the Sultan not to yield to clamour. To take away all pretence for a religious cry, it was arranged that the Koran and the canonical books should continue to circulate in manuscript, but for other books the press was established. This compromise was attended with success enough to disarm opposition; but the wretched success of literature in Turkey attests the apathy of the Turkish mind, resulting, no doubt, from the powerful narcotic of

Islamism. Ibrahim Effendi, the first introducer of the press, was a man of vast energy,—and was on a large scale printer, translator, corrector and author. He was one of those superior natives, never wanting to Turkey, who nevertheless are unable to achieve great results owing to certain drowsy and deadening influences which sensualize the Turkish mind, and make it gross and carnal. Ibrahim introduced books of social utility, such as the histories of various countries. But with all his efforts, after twenty-eight years the Turkish press produced only eighteen works, or twenty-five volumes, the number of copies being only 16,500. The press sank for a time entirely; but was again established in 1783, and from that year up to 1828 it printed eighty works in the Turkish tongue. The subjects of these were chiefly of a utilitarian character,—abridgments and compilations from European works of celebrity. From 1830 to 1842 there were 108 works printed in Turkish:—and the press appears to be progressing, but at a slow rate. The Sultan has taken a special interest in the publication of works on military science, which are introduced in primary and secondary education. M. Bianchi, ex-translator of foreign languages to the Sultan, has suggested that that prince should imitate the example of the Viceroy of Egypt, and establish at Paris a mission of young Ottomans to form a connecting link of ideas and civilization.

The newspaper press in Turkey dates from 1828:—the first journal having been established at Smyrna by M. Blacque. It was called the *Spectator of the East*. In 1831 M. Blacque was called to Constantinople by the Sultan Mahmoud, and there established the *Ottoman Moniteur*—the official journal of the Sublime Porte. This journal was published in French; and in the next year another copy translating its contents into Turkish was published. Up and down throughout the Ottoman Empire are scattered a few journals which drag out a feeble existence. They apparently are undertaken for personal objects, to attract official influence to the owners and contributors. Two Turkish, four Italian, four French, one Greek, one Armenian, one Bulgarian,—such is the extent of Turkish journalism. About twenty years ago Mr. Edwards set up the *Smyrna Independent*,—which was lapsed into a French paper.

But bad as the literary progress of Turkey may be, its industrial condition is still worse. In commercial energy, according to M. Ubicini, there is a marked decline. Several branches of manufacture that once existed in Turkey have ceased, and their places have been taken by others. Once it supplied itself with its own manufactures, and circulated them in the East. Now, it exports nothing to Europe but raw materials and imports its manufactures.

Anatolia, Diarbekir, and Broussa, once celebrated for their silks and velvets, now make only a tenth part of what they once produced. At Scutari and Tournovo there were 2,000 muslin looms at work in 1812, and in 1831 there were only 240:—so on in other departments.

In fact, there is, according to our author, an internal decline throughout Turkey; and any facts which show a comparative advance when contrasted with former periods of Turkey, suggest an opposite conclusion when we take into account the prodigious strides made in the rest of Europe. Some of our readers may recollect the publications on Russia and Turkey by "A Manchester Manufacturer" which twenty years since attracted attention to Mr. Cobden. The views then put forward as to the wretched and unprogressive state of Turkey are confirmed by this volume of M. Ubicini. It presents the

dreary spectacle of a declining race, with an obsolete faith and old-fashioned Orientalisms, which certain bold and well meaning Turkish Ministers vainly endeavour to mould into elements in sympathy with civilization. When we think of what Poland was once, of how Hungary has fared recently,—and behold Turkey with its anti-progressive spirit, its sinking commerce, and its vicious customs, still preserved in the European chart of nations,—we ask what can be the cause that it is not long since extinct?—that the Ottoman Empire has been maintained, while the nations of Kosciusko and of Kossuth have been extirpated and (for a time) trampled down? The answer is patent:—viz., If Turkey is to fall, who is to get it? Shall it be Russian, French, Austrian, or English, —if not in name, at least actually? That tempting line of sea coast, with the city of Constantinople and its powerful position, are enough to tantalize the ambition of Austrian and Russian dynasties. Our readers recollect what France has sacrificed to obtain a settlement at Algiers,—and French writers have more than once hinted that in Turkey France could compensate herself for the want of the Indies. What Milan was between Francis the First and Charles the Fifth—the Low Countries between William the Third and Louis the Fourteenth—Turkey will be in the next great contest between Eastern and Western Europe. All accounts of it show that it cannot be a substantive power,—but that, like Spain, it must lean for support on some external force. It has only one tie of sympathy with the people of England,—namely, the Turk is tolerant in religion, and on that point may invite a favourable comparison with some Southern communities that do no honour to the Christian name. But even in his toleration (if such it is to be called) the faults of the Turkish character are evident. This toleration does not spring so much from a humane aversion to insulting the opinions of another, or from any instinctive perception of the rights of conscience, as from an apathetic indifference to modes of thinking not his own,—a profoundly callous apathy of character satisfied with its own coarse and received ideas. The want of domestic life resulting from polygamy, and the narrow dogmatism of the Koran (on which the State as well as the Church of Islam depend), combine to make the mass of the Turks a population less susceptible of improvement even in the hands of enlightened rulers than any other people in Europe. M. Ubicini takes a more favourable view of Turkish domestic life than most other writers; and represents polygamy as quite unfashionable at Constantinople, though prevailing in the provinces.

The present Government in Turkey is decidedly a progressive one,—and has on the whole enlightened views. But "sine moribus quid prosunt leges?" There have been as enlightened rulers before in Turkey,—and their efforts at regenerating the people on a Mohammedan basis have proved fruitless.

We shall be glad to see M. Ubicini's second volume:—and in the mean time recommend his work to readers who like to study the economical and political condition of Europe.

NEW NOVELS.

Jacob Bendixen, the Jew. Adapted from the Danish of Goldschmidt. By Mary Howitt. 3 vols. Colburn & Co.

WHETHER it be the *Ghetto* at Rome, or the desolate sea-bank on the *Lido* at Venice, or the quaint cemetery in the *Polder* without the gates of Amsterdam, or the *Juden-gasse* at Frankfort,—certain it is, that the quarter of any Continental town or its suburbs devoted to Hebrew

life or death has a character and a sentiment of its own,—full of picturesque, but also of painful, interest. Usages beyond the pale of our ordinary sympathies—lives shut up and set apart, as much by outward persecution as by inner pride—something of the poetry of antique times and far-away countries, more potent than the associations conjured up by vulgar prejudice and reproach—are there symbolized or expressed. But few—be their toleration ever so real, their demeanour ever so winning—have opportunities of piercing to the reality through the dream-like veil which hides the life and death of the Jew abroad. His worship is unintelligible,—his domestic usages are rarely revealed to strangers—his heart's bitterness is one into which they could hardly enter were it even made known to them. Thus, this tale of all these things, written by a Jew, has—as its translator, in her preface, asserts—the fascination and the value of a glimpse into a most strange world.

When we have said that the parents of Jacob Bendixen are Danish Jews, settled at Funen,—that the first volume is devoted to the experiences of his childhood and early adolescence,—that the second displays him in the midst of those breakers of passion, through which it has been maintained that a man's heart can pass only once,—that the third shows the current of his life after the storm,—we have hinted as much concerning the acts and scenes of this painful tale as we care to indicate. For, most painful it is.—The Jew child, whose lot happened to be cast in the midst of a small Hebrew congregation, was brought up without the companionship of children. Christian boys scouted and plagued him with all the incessant malignity of which childish thoughtlessness is capable. The Jew student, even when he had distinguished himself among his college mates, could not *woo* and *win* as other men do. Having succeeded in gaining the respect of a Christian family and the love of its fairest flower, Jacob Bendixen was far from happiness. Every new family friend and relation to whom the betrothal was announced was a new serpent in his Garden of Eden. The scenes which passed may be indicated by the first of a long and irritating series of such encounters.—

"The sound of the stage-coach suddenly pulling up before the house released both himself and the company generally from the petrifying influence which had fallen upon them. All hastened to the window to see who had arrived. Jacob blessed in his heart the stranger who had come so opportunely. 'Mother!' exclaimed Thora, 'there is my aunt!' 'Yes, good heavens! my aunt,' chimed in her sister; and clapping their hands they ran out of the room to receive her. The visitors took their leave, and Jacob, who was abashed and dejected, would have followed their example, if it could have been done with propriety. When the aunt had embraced and kissed her sister and her nieces and inquired after the health of the absent merchant, Jacob was introduced to her as Thora's betrothed. 'I congratulate you!' said the aunt, very coldly but politely. Jacob bowed most respectfully. 'But how happens it that you are come so unexpectedly, dear Matilde?' asked Mrs. Fangel. 'Good heavens! the occasion is a happy one!' replied aunt Matilde.

'You know that ever since the death of his sister, my husband has lost all desire to continue at the parsonage, although it is so good a living; therefore he made inquiries after a living in the city. In the spring we got a letter to say that the living he wished for was at his service; and as soon as I heard that, I had no longer any wish to remain a country parson's wife. I set off, and now you have me, and here I shall stay till my husband comes. Good heavens! How I have longed after Copenhagen!'—'Oh, that is delightful!' exclaimed Thora's sister; so then my uncle will be our parish minister! And he can marry you, Thora!'—'Thora!' interrupted

the aunt, by a Christian starting hard seemed to any other and a fully inter Fangel his When do on the live will be get every But will Thora's si of the w pleated mi let me fi ther, Mr her eye o others, ar you real my niece Jacob he to do off a demon w length, sh to approach and to ha her as mis but Thor room and stood in any word. C expressed afterward in his hands with eyes was a for, in the retain aff allows to be seated to bring she add you do towards his birth he had g having b Jacob ha reply, bu in a tongue those poi st listen madness latred a words, them."

Few family background require which J ended. leaves in annuals adventure of pass— but it We can as little struggle store his sorrow be. We return heartily the con gay—w of pernister.

a sensible but also the pale and quietude as poetry of us, more and up by there be their ever so strong to all which abroad. domestic hers—his they could to them. written by preface, due of a of Jacob unen,— experience— midst of which it has can pass the current the hinted scenes of e. For, whose lot a small without nian boys necessary ness is he had the mates, men do. effect of a s fairest happiness, to whom serpent h passed long and y pulling and the influence blessed in fortunely. aunt!— d in her out of the leave, d, would have been embraced inquired Jacob was. "I con- boldy but How how- dly, dear wens! the Matilde. his sister, at the therefore . In the wished eard that, to the country par- me, and s. Good agen!— 'sister, and interrupted

the aunt, with a keen glance; 'can she be married by a Christian minister?' So unexpected and so startling was this exclamation, that Jacob at first could hardly believe his ears; the next moment it seemed to him impossible that it could be said in any other spirit than that of sheer stupidity. Question and answer in the mean time were uninterruptedly interchanged. Whilst the aunt replied, Mrs. Fangel had already a fresh question on her lips.—'When does your husband come? Does he enter on the living immediately?'—'Yes; he only stops till he has sold our rubbish by auction. We shall get everything new here, from top to bottom.'—'But will not aunt go and change her dress?' asked Thora's sister. Thora had walked silently to one of the windows; Jacob stood with a sorely perplexed mind in another window, and drew figures on the pane of glass. 'Yes, thank you, my child! But let me first have a cup of warm coffee. Ah, see there, Mr. Lieutenant!'—exclaimed she, casting her eye on Engborg, who had not left with the others, and who had approached her.—'Ay, and you really,' added she, in an undertone, 'have let my niece be carried off from just under your nose!' Jacob heard these words. It was not possible for him to doubt their meaning, yet he could not take offence at them. The aunt seemed to him like a demon who had broken loose to persecute him. At length, she went to change her dress. He longed to approach Thora; to excuse his behaviour to her, and to have thus early such an understanding with her as might secure him against this horrible woman; but Thora, with a look of displeasure, also left the room and followed the others into the chamber. He stood in torturing anxiety; so much did he dread any word which might possibly be exchanged among them. Of a certainty, his countenance must have expressed the musing of his soul; for, some time afterwards, when Thora approached him, she pressed his hand tenderly, while she gazed into his face with eyes full of tears. In a moment, Jacob's suffering was at an end; but it was only for a moment; for, in the next, he asked himself, how long will she retain affection and regard for the Jew whom she allows to be persecuted under her own roof? Jacob was seated at table by the aunt, as if it were intended to bring them amicably together; but the first words she addressed to him were, 'Nay, I'm pleased. Then you do eat with us!' Shortly after, she turned towards him, in a friendly manner, and asked about his birthplace, his rank of life, and so forth. When he had given her some information on these subjects, she asked,—'But what do your family say to your having betrothed yourself to a Christian girl?'—Jacob had self-possession enough to give an evasive reply, but he sat as if on the rack. He would have given a year of his life if he could have silenced that tongue—if he could have prevented it from uttering these poisonous words, to which the whole company listened with profound attention. He felt as if madness were raging within him—as if a burning hatred arose within him of all those who heard these words, and more especially of her who uttered them."

Few after having been introduced to such a family counsellor, and to such a figure in the background as a disappointed Lieutenant, will require to be satisfied as to the manner in which Jacob Bendixen's comfortable courtship ended. From the time, however, when he leaves Denmark the novel falls off sadly. In the annals of real suffering violent and changeful adventure does often succeed to the explosion of passion long pent up and slowly developed,—but it makes a bad and patchy third volume. We care little for Jacob Bendixen in Paris,—as little when he is embarked in the Polish struggle; being all the time impatient to restore him to the scenes of his home joys and sorrows,—to retribution, or atonement, as may be. Which of the two awaits the Jew on his return to Denmark we shall not tell;—wishing heartily to command the novel, not merely to the common novel-reader, but to all—grave or gay—who concern themselves with the effects of persecution on human intercourse and character.

The Convent and the Harem. By Madame Pisani. 3 vols. Bentley.

An indolent person was once known to us who, on being encouraged to cultivate his mind, used to ask concerning every book proposed to him by energetic contemporaries or wisely-judging seniors, "Is it very arduous reading?" This novel has emphatically reminded us of our friend's epithet. It is a truly arduous novel.—Madame Pisani has toiled her best to render into English the Cavaliere Rosini's "Il Conte Ugolino della Gherardesca e i Ghibelini di Pisa." She has left out under the Cavaliere's superintendence certain parts and personages of the original story,—she has modified others, with the view of adapting the Italian tale, with its long-winded title, to English use;—and our admiration at her perseverance equals our fatigue as we follow her through these three weary volumes. The heaviness and academical formality of modern Italian imagination have more than once struck us as a phenomenon singular among a people so impulsive in their passion, so richly various in their parlance. Even their one great romance, "I Promessi Sposi," weighs upon the spirits of the reader more than it excites them:—while the second-rate tribe, such as "Ettore Fioramosca," "Marco Visconti," and others, live in English esteem, only as so many books taken out by the summer tourist in the somewhat empirical hope of thereby increasing his familiarity with the country, the life, and the language on the further side of the Alps. There is a dryness in the descriptions—a poverty in the characters—an inflated wordiness in the passionate dialogues, which repel rather than invite. Hence more than one critic has fancied that the Italian feuds and conspiracies, to which these tales are chiefly devoted, are totally intractable in fiction. Surely they are less so than the forays and fightings of the little Border chiefs to which Scott could give an almost Homeric interest. Schiller, again, when he grappled with what he himself styled such a dry political transaction as the fate and fall of Wallenstein, could by the magic of his art transmute it into one of those poems which make the heart throb, the cheek burn, the eyes fill. We may further recall how Byron and Shelley, in their tragedies of "Marino Faliero" and "The Cenci," could make two Italian stories—the one singularly local, the other almost intolerably horrible—universal in their interest. It is not, then, that character and incident are wanting to the annals of Italy,—but to its modern literature are wanting the magicians capable of presenting them. In place of such sorcerers, we have ponderous builders-up of phrases, skilled, but adust antiquarians, confused weavers of plot and counterplot;—and Il Cavaliere Rosini, as here set before us in an English dress, seems among the most ponderous, adust, and confused of the party. In his hands the struggle betwixt the Guelphs and the Ghibellines of Pisa, however pompously announced, takes no grander proportions than a squabble betwixt two rival families. The fascinations of Genivra Lancia, the harem-bred Ghibelline beauty, which entangle what may be called the thread of private adventure that is introduced to relieve the record of public feud and jealousy, differ little in quality from the airs and graces exhibited by those bad ladies, demoralized by reading bad French novels, who behave so injuriously to unsettled husbands and pattern wives in Miss Edgeworth's prudent, but somewhat prosaic tales. Yet, one of the brightest scenes in "The Convent and the Harem" is the following, which shows this coquettish Genivra on the hunting field:—also the pain which her popularity there gave to the angelic Bianca.—

"Bianca had not, as yet, seen either Montefeltro,

Lancia, or his niece; but, as she took her place beside Nino, while Ubaldino, with a hurried excuse, galloped away, her attention was soon attracted by a low murmur of admiration, mingled with voices of entreaty, and laughing refusals, which every moment approached nearer and nearer, while the words, 'beautiful!' 'angelic!' 'heavenly!' met her ear upon all sides. This unusual sound in such a scene was at length explained, as a sudden and eager opening in the circle, immediately opposite to where she and her party had reined up, gave to her view Genivra, clad in a complete suit of mail, except the helmet, fitting perfectly to her exquisite form, and composed of the richest and most elastic materials, wrought by the most exquisite skill which the world could then produce. On her head she wore a hunting cap of crimson silk, ornamented with the gold embroidery for which Lucca was then famous, with a heron's plume fixed to it by a valuable diamond. This costume, with a falcon hooded on her wrist, and a little silver bell attached to her saddle behind, gave the intimation to the entranced beholders that she was come, not as a spectre, but as a sharer in their sports. She rode a beautiful bay Arab, and her groom, decked in the colours of her cap, followed close behind, carrying a fairy bow, arrows, and lance. It is quite impossible to convey the least idea of the effect produced on that assemblage of gentlemen by such an appearance—such a compliment—such an intimation of fellowship in their ruder sports, from a creature so exquisitely, so femininely beautiful, in spite of, or rather in contrast with, her warlike attire. * * * The multitude, a moment before so noisy, became hushed in the intensity of admiring expectation. They had not to endure it long; a speck was presently seen floating in the air; Genivra unhooded her falcon, and, scarcely moving her wrist, the noble bird raised his head, as if to salute the light, looked round him for a moment on the assembled company, then, as if become aware, by what he saw, of what was expected from him, he cast a searching glance into the air, perceived, and seemed to reconnoitre the enemy's movements for a second; then, slowly stretching out his wings to their fullest extent, as if to assure himself of their being in order, he darted upwards, leaving on the minds of the spectators the impression of a haughty, but noble character, slow to decide, but prompt in action, and certain of success. Nor did that success become doubtful, in the eager eyes which followed him, because he hastened not to seize his prey; but, never increasing nor shortening the distance between him and it, as, terrified and bewildered, one of the most beautiful of the pheasant tribe moved higher and lower, and performed various evolutions through the air, the falcon seemed as if he were enjoying the splendid emanations reflected from its plumes, as they received the sun's rays in different positions. The shouts of the delighted crowds beneath, appeared to excite the pursued and the pursuer. They quickened their movements, contracted the sphere of their circles, and, at last, just as Bianca turned to Beatrice to say, "And this gives you pleasure?" the falcon, with the air of one who would not exhaust the plaudits that gratified him, stooped upon the beauteous creature, and, seizing it in his talons, lowered himself, gracefully, until he arrived whence he had departed, when, placing his prey in the right hand of his mistress, with the air of a knight who would say, "I have done your behest and won my reward," he resumed his place upon her left wrist. The admiration and enthusiasm of the spectators were now unbounded, and, it is scarcely necessary to say, that, in a moment, the lovely stranger was surrounded by all who could, by any means, get within sight or hearing of the idol of the moment."

At a ball in the evening, something like the well-known scene betwixt *Brunetta* and *Phillis* occurred,—Bianca's Abigail having made up for Bianca's wearing a crown such as Genivra had prepared for the purpose of turning all heads and hearts. What was more provoking, Bianca looked the better of the two in the new ornament. But the Ghibelline *Armida* had more arrows than one in her quiver. Her head being balked, she had recourse to her feet. Being discomfited by the triumph of Bianca's crown, Genivra retired into an alcove,—got her

uncle, the old and stern Admiral Lancia, to fasten bells to her ankles, and coming out, cymbal in hand, and exhibiting a Moorish dance, entirely took possession of all the gentlemen for the rest of the evening.—Puerile as this scene is, it is amongst the liveliest and most life-like in the romance.—In some graver portions of his tale *Il Cavaliere Rosini* (or *Madame Pisani*) is too fond of appealing to Dante; by allusions to whose *Divina Commedia* he tries to eke out his own deficiencies in characterization.—In others, we are arrested by pages of prosy epitomes of history, or by harangues, the tediousness of which is narcotic. To conclude, be the day long or short—the weather hot or cold—we cannot fancy a tougher piece of exercise for the youngest and most enterprising of novel readers than to be compelled to read *'The Convent and the Harem,'* with a view to giving an abridged account of it afterwards.

Cardinal Allen's Defence of Sir William Stanley's Surrender of Deventer, January 29th, 1586-7. Edited by Thomas Heywood, Esq. Printed for the Chetham Society.

WHEN we took up this book we were disposed to anticipate better things than, at the conclusion of its reading, we were enabled to report concerning it. We saw that it was preceded by a long "introduction,"—and had foot-notes containing a list of authorities, quotations from many works, and detailed accounts of Lancashire families. It was evident, therefore, that the editor had spared no pains,—and to this praise he is certainly entitled; but we cannot congratulate him on the use which he has made of his materials. These, from his own reading and from the contributions of his friends, seem to have accumulated upon his hands in such a manner that in the end he hardly knew what to do with them. Accordingly, his "introduction" is overloaded, and not well digested; and we could have been better content with half the information (especially of a genealogical kind) if it had insured us a little more breadth of view and greater clearness of statement. The editor has crammed himself to repletion,—and the result is for that reason not quite satisfactory.

The explanation of the matter is perhaps to be found in the fact, that most of the books of the Chetham Society having been so well prepared, Mr. Heywood was anxious not to be behind hand;—but his means have defeated his end. His own reading was doubtless sufficient; but his friends have apparently been so obtrusive of their good offices, and he has been so scrupulous in acknowledgment, that the slightest and most needless contribution has received its laudatory recognition. In one place a gentleman could not supply the mere reference to a MS. without obtaining a separate note of thanks. We have generally a great deal too much of this in works of the kind; and we earnestly advise such as engage to superintend publications for literary Societies to depend more on their own knowledge and inquiries. If they do not possess sufficient resources, let them decline the task;—if they undertake it, let the officious zeal of Mr. A. B. and C. find vent elsewhere, however disappointed they may be at not finding their names in capitals in the preface.

In reference to the notes, we must say that we decidedly object to the waste of print and paper on details of insignificant family history. What do readers care about the origin of Mr. John Poole, of Capenhurst—of Mr. Richard Massey, of Aldford—and of twenty others?—To go to greater names:—if it be true that the Earl of Derby "died September 25, 1592," as we are told in a note at p. xlii, how can it be true, as

we hear on the very next page, that he "died under strange circumstances, April 16, 1594"? The last is probably the correct date; and the error must have arisen from confounding Henry Stanley with Ferdinando Stanley, of whose illness and death Stow gives so circumstantial an account in his *'Chronicle,'* pp. 1275, 77.

The surrender of Deventer to the Spaniards, by Sir William Stanley, in the very beginning of 1587, is an historical event of so much importance, and has been mentioned so frequently by Metteeren, Thuuanus, Strada, and other foreign writers, to say nothing of our own, that it is somewhat late in the day for any one to come forward with a fresh narrative of particulars so notorious. Nevertheless, we could have accepted a brief summary by way of explanation of the origin of Cardinal Allen's "Defence" of Sir William Stanley's treachery. It might also have been as well to have annexed a sketch of the lives of the hero and of his apologist:—but the editor's lengthened detail of antiquated facts seems to us wholly unnecessary. The volume consists of about 150 pages, and of these the "introduction" fills considerably more than two-thirds; while Allen's tract follows, in small type, as a sort of make-weight appendage. Neither are we altogether of opinion that the latter was worth even this distinction; for though it may be a literary curiosity, we are far from thinking that Societies like the Chetham do well to expend their funds on reprints of pieces which historians would now hardly refer to and which ordinary readers would never wish to see at all. Cardinal Allen's production does not give a particle of information not found elsewhere; and his arguments are little more than the effrontery of unscrupulous Romanism or the sophistry of unprincipled jesuitry. The game, as our neighbours say, was hardly worth the candle,—especially so expensive a candle as Mr. Heywood has lighted. He has wasted much time and space in the illustration of a production by no means remarkable for its learning or its eloquence. It is, in fact, hardly even a fair specimen of the writer's controversial abilities,—certainly by no means so favourable a one as others that might have been selected. Let us instance what Allen calls his "sincere and modest defence of English Catholics," in reply to the celebrated tract by Burleigh.

We are not disposed to go into a critical examination of Mr. Heywood's "introduction." We should be perhaps wrong in considering it as entirely by his hand,—for we fancy that we see in the course of it specimens of various styles of writing. The opinions, so far as any are expressed, do not appear to be always consistent; and with one of them we cannot at all agree,—viz., that Allen at different periods of his life varied in his notion as to the fitness and justice of dethroning Elizabeth. We can trace no such variation. On the contrary, he always maintained that by her excommunication her subjects were released from their allegiance; and this, in truth, is the main ground on which he rests his "Defence" of Stanley. It is the same point for which he contended from the commencement to the close of his career. If he did not openly and in terms advocate the assassination of the Queen, he was on the most intimate footing with Parsons and others who did. Nor was there so much difference between Allen and Parsons, to the advantage of the former, as Mr. Heywood would establish. Both were learned, wily, and unscrupulous; but Allen's cunning was overlaid by an appearance of gentleness, fairness, and openness, which rendered him doubly dangerous. The Pope well knew what he was about when he gave the

purple to Allen rather than to Parsons, although the claim of the latter was supported by an advocate no less powerful than the King of Spain. It was the cue of Parsons to speak out, and to incite to acts of violence; while Allen's part was to affect to soothe and allay,—and to make people believe that the Roman Catholica were most unfairly belied, and that their true designs (excepting so far as the removal of Elizabeth was concerned) were most gentle, peaceable and inoffensive.

If the Pope made Allen a Cardinal, Mr. Heywood has made a much more unlikely person a Bishop:—for at p. lxxv he has advanced Martin Marprelate to a see. This error is of course a misprint;—and we regret to add, that there are several others of some importance in the volume, notwithstanding the minute affectation of accuracy, in observing even the old and absurd punctuation.—The conclusion of the introduction, with its quotation from Dante, affords a specimen of what some may call fine writing; for which the editor has of course made himself responsible,—but which we should point out as one of the passages that probably did not come from a discreet, learned and chastened pen.

The Iris: an Illuminated Souvenir, for 1842. Edited by John S. Hart, L.L.D. Philadelphia, Lippincott, Grambo & Co.; London, Delf & Tribner.

In the last American gift-books with which we dealt, we had to object to a too limited employment of the picturesque materials furnished in such rich quantities by the New World. No such charge is to be laid against this *'Iris,'*—which, therefore, although by no means a volume of high literary or artistic pretension, is a welcome Christmas book. The matter—we are informed in the Preface—was principally collected by "Capt. Eastman of the United States Topographical Corps;" who having been "stationed for nine years on the north-western frontier among the Indian tribes at and around Fort Snelling, made a series of drawings of some of the most striking and remarkable objects connected with Indian traditions." Mrs. Eastman accompanied many of these with illustrations in prose and verse, derived also from Indian sources,—and a large portion of the letter-press of *'The Iris'* is from her hand. The illustrations are executed in chromo-lithography and with various success. One or two of them—we may as well instance the subject called *'Indian Courtship'*—do not rise much higher than the blue, scarlet, and amber coloured pictures with which the scrap-book of Genius in a pinafore is filled.—Even these, however, have character; while the *'Mission Chapel of San José, near San Antonio, Texas,'* may be singled out as a favourable specimen of an art in which the delicacies and difficulties are so numerous as almost to preclude the possibility of an easy, entire success. Be they better or be they worse, however,—and somewhat flagrant as they must necessarily be,—these illustrations are still more acceptable than a library of modish gentlemen looking delightfully with all their might—or than most of the collections of *"Gems,"* *"Buds,"* *"Blossoms,"* *"Garlands,"* &c. &c., under which the critic's table has been accustomed to groan at this period of the year.—In like measure, and on like grounds, do we recognize the letter-press as containing matter of genuine interest. Mrs. Eastman may not take literary rank with a Cooper, an Irving, a Hawthorne,—but she writes pleasingly because she has something to say. Her verse, too, has a charm akin to that of the verses which diversify the prose pages of Wilson's *'American Ornithology.'*—The follow-

ing, without rich or rare poetical merit, nevertheless reminds us of those breathings of the woods and deserts which fill the narrow yet not lifeless pages of the book of aboriginal poetry.

Wood Spirits and the Maiden.

Day with its gorgeous light passes away,
Shadows of coming night darken the way.

Who is the wanderer

With the long braided hair ?

'Mid the tall evergreens,

She like a fairy seems ;

Know ye the maiden young,

Wood Spirits, say ?

Know we the maiden young—mark well her form,
Like the tall pine tree, when rages the storm.

How like the dark bird's wing

Glistens her braided hair.

When watching o'er her birth,

Sang we a song of earth,

We were her guardians made,

She was our child.

Soon o'er her body cold chaunt we her funeral hymn,
Wild branches, torn and old, timing the requiem.

Why does she wander here ?

With the long braided hair ?

Why is the maiden pale ?

Why does her breathing fail ?

Now by the moonbeams fair,

See her dimmed eye.

She loved as maiden loves, she wept as woman weeps.

Soon will her restless frame sleep where her lover sleeps.

Then to our far-off groves

Will we her spirit bear.

When heaves her parting sigh,

When closed her lustrous eye,

We will her guardians be, —

She is our child.

We are all the more cordially disposed towards truth and simplicity from fancying these old-world graces to be in no ordinary danger just at present. Turn, for instance, to the two pages filled with a contribution called "Different Impressions," by our old friend and favourite Miss Bremer. She, good lady, seems of late increasingly resolute to become profound and transcendental; and the generous and enlarged or philanthropic sentiments which she now finds it necessary to produce on all occasions and in all companies (as it were) are bringing her to a state not unlike that of the travelling gentlewoman in one of her own tales, who was perpetually on the look out for mysterious and affecting things, and very fine phrases, to be written "to her sister at Hapanda." —To return, however, and conclude,—enough has been said to indicate in what manner and to what degree we conceive 'The Iris' commendable.

M. Tullii Ciceronis Orationes. With a Commentary. Vol. I. Verrinarum Libri Septem. By George Long. Whittaker & Co.

SEVERAL months have elapsed since the public were first apprised of the projected publication of a series of Greek and Latin classics, under the title of 'Bibliotheca Classica,' edited by some of our most distinguished scholars; the whole being subject to the superintendence of Mr. George Long and the Rev. A. J. Macleane. The volume before us is an auspicious commencement of the undertaking. Editions of Herodotus, Homer, Horace, and Tacitus are now in course of preparation, and will shortly be published. The works of other classical authors are to follow at intervals, with as much regularity as circumstances will permit. We regard the enterprise with great satisfaction, and wish it every success. If fully carried out, it will go far—in conjunction with our modern dictionaries of classical antiquities, biography and mythology, and our histories of Greece and Grecian literature—to wipe off the national reproach of depending upon Germany for our knowledge of ancient Greece and Rome. There is no reason why this country should be contented with mere reprints of German texts of the classics, and translations of German notes upon them. It has not been owing to any want of scholarship among us so much as to a want of

proper energy and spirit that this system of borrowing from our neighbours has been carried on to so great an extent. We trust the success of the 'Bibliotheca Classica' will completely remove all suspicion of either one want or the other.

Mr. Long's reputation both as a scholar and an editor invests his name with high authority. Perhaps no man in this country is better qualified to prepare a good edition of that portion of the ancient classics which he has here presented to the public. Some may be found not inferior to him in point of general classical attainments,—but few at the same time as well furnished with technical knowledge. He is a lawyer as well as a classical scholar. For years he has made the whole system of Roman law his favourite study. Those who are in the habit of consulting Smith's 'Dictionary of Antiquities' need not be told that his numerous and valuable contributions on this subject form a most important addition to our previous knowledge. There is an abundance of such information in the notes to this edition of Cicero's *Verrine* orations. Mr. Long has also furnished several *excursus*, in which he discusses more fully other points essential to a right understanding of Cicero's orations. These *excursus*, though perhaps too elaborate for very young persons, will be read with interest and advantage by more advanced students. They are rendered all the more useful by the practical observations which they contain on modern law. In an *excursus* upon *Judicia*—after detailing the disputes which occurred at different times in Rome with regard to the appointment of *judices*, and noticing the prevalence of the custom of choosing private persons to decide civil causes—Mr. Long thus continues.

"People, if left alone, can find out what they want better than any legislator; and there are few countries at the present day in which the old courts would not be soon superseded by something better suited to the wants of the people, if the free development of a nation's activity was not fettered by those who hold power, and particularly by those who are interested in maintaining existing forms of procedure. In Rome the notion of justice, which is implanted in all people, and developed by their social progress, finally led the Romans to the transferring of the *Officium Judicis* to private persons, named for the occasion, and generally in each case to a single person. In certain cases, several *Judices* were appointed, under the name of *Recuperatores*, whose functions appear to have been limited to particular kinds of actions." * It does not follow that all who were not specially excluded had the capacity of acting as *Judex*; and the *Praetor* might by virtue of the power of his office extend the exceptions. Yet the nature of the institution of a *Judex* seems to require that there should be the freest possible selection of persons; and this was particularly so in the case of that class of *Judices* who were called *Arbitri* (see Cicero *Pro Rose. Com. e. 4 and Top. 17*); and apparently in the case of *Recuperatores* also. There were two classes of *Arbitri*; and one class were those who by the *Formula* were empowered to decide what one party should do or make good to another 'ex fide bona,' or 'quantum aquius melius id dari,' or 'ut inter bonos ager oportet.' This class of actions was finally comprehended under the name of 'bonae fidei judicia.' The Romans had a tact for legal precision; but they had likewise a nice sense of what is just. They knew that many of the transactions of life cannot be bound down to the rigid formulae of a legal rule. Our legal formalists can see nothing beyond the narrow circle within which they trench themselves. If the case in hand does not fit their formula, no legal redress for a wrong which the common understanding (*communis sensus*) of mankind pronounces to be wrong, no legal establishment of a right, which the like sense pronounces to be one. By means of their 'bonae fidei judicia,' the Romans kept a mean between the refusal of justice and the laxity of no legal rule. Their law existed less in the written text than in the understanding of the people, the true depository of a large part of law, and that

mainly which relates to the multifarious concerns of life which come under the legal denomination of Contracts, or the popular and wider term of Agreements."

Under the head of 'Edicta Magistratum' we find these excellent remarks.—

"The Lex Aebutia, which is of uncertain date, introduced a new mode of procedure, according to which the claims of a party were drawn up by the *Praetor* in a written formula, the terms of which were independent of the words of any Lex. The *Praetor* being thus freed from the ancient forms was enabled to grant actions, which could not be founded on the *Jus Civile* or the strict law (Gaius, iv. 11), and in this way a class of Actions called *Honorariae*, from the honour or office of the *Praetor*, was introduced. To allow a right of action in cases where no such right has existed, is the same thing as to acknowledge a new right; for a right of action implies the existence of a previous right, or the existence of a wrong or legal injury. It is not to be supposed that a *Praetor* arbitrarily allowed new rights of action. He was merely the organ to declare what already existed in the common understanding of the people,—the consciousness of a want and the necessity of a remedy. The *Praetor* in many cases, while he framed his formula with reference to some old-established rule of law, gave it a wider application. He could direct the *Judex* to decide in a given case as if certain facts existed which did not exist,—a mode of proceeding which might lead to great abuse in unskilful hands, but might be made useful and just when the purpose of the *Magistratus* was honest and the law was defective. For the Roman Law must not be viewed as modern systems of law may be, which are the results of the experience of past ages. The Romans had to create what they wanted, and all that we have here to consider is the way in which they satisfied their wants. Circumstances might and did occur, for instance, in which a man was not owner of a thing according to the *Jus Civile* or strict Roman law, but he was owner so far as concerned the justice of his claim. He might have done all that was necessary to acquire the ownership of a thing, except the observance of some form, which the *Jus Civile* required; and the *Praetor* might direct the *Judex*, if he found the facts of the case to be such as stated in the formula, to consider him as owner and decide accordingly, just as if the person had acquired the thing in such a way as would have made him owner by the *Jus Civile*. This mode of treating a given case, as if it were in all respects conformable to another case, to which certain rules of law are applicable, is what the Romans call *Fictio*. Some modern writers who have made themselves merry over legal fictions, have been more merry than wise. A legal *Fiction* may be a bad figment or a good one. When it is a good one, it accomplishes its object; it satisfies a want and a necessity. He who by virtue of his office is able to become the interpreter of the common understanding of the people, takes from the people, whose activity is the real generator of law, a material to which his skill gives the proper form and his office the due authority. He legislates in a sense, and is generally a better legislator than a large body of men called a *Legislature*. How long a *Fiction* should be allowed to subsist after it has indicated a social want, and shown how it is to be supplied, is a different question. The direct mode of supplying such a want is by legislation, by the act of a sovereign person, or of a number of persons possessed of sovereign power, or who have power delegated to them for that purpose: this is properly called Legislation, the establishment of new rules of law by Statutes, or by *Leges*, as the Romans called them. The Lex Aebutia also gave the *Praetor* the power of assisting a defendant by means of the formula. The simplest defence is a denial of a plaintiff's claim, who must then prove it. But the claim of the plaintiff in itself may be undeniable, and yet there may be some fact that is sufficient to nullify it. The *Praetor* in his formula could instruct the *Judex* to decide in favour of the defendant, not only if the claim of the plaintiff could not be established, but also if the fact or facts which the defendant alleged as a sufficient answer to the plaintiff's demand should be established by him. This fact, or these facts, which are an answer to a demand which otherwise would be a valid demand, are an *Exceptio*, an answer

or plea: and this Exceptio protected the defendant against a demand which was valid by the *Jus Civile*, whenever the Praetor thought fit to give the Exceptio this effect. Here also the Praetor did not act arbitrarily. He would only allow an Exceptio when common opinion had already pronounced in some way that it ought to be allowed, or when the case was such that common opinion could not fail to acquiesce in the rule which had its first distinct expression through the organ of the Praetor. This mode of proceeding, this growth of law out of popular opinion, is neither uncertain nor capricious in those matters which relate to the usual transactions of life. A people will often be bad judges of the logical consequences which flow from an established rule of law; but their sense of justice is clear enough to show them when a new rule of law is wanted, and what it should be. It is the business of one who is expert in Law to give to the rule such a form that it shall be fitted to accomplish its purpose."

The professional knowledge and practical wisdom exhibited in the above extracts are discernible throughout the rest of the book. In the notes may be found critical observations on the readings of the text, explanations of technical and idiomatic expressions, valuable remarks on the derivations of words, and translations of difficult passages, with useful references to other writers, both ancient and modern. We hardly know which to admire most, the great learning, the acute observation, or the sound judgment which everywhere strikes our attention. Mr. Long is no pedant. He does not waste words on scholastic trivialities. If a passage is difficult even to him, he does not, like many annotators, attempt to disguise the fact by putting off the reader with a laboured translation which may mean anything or nothing. He can afford to be candid in his confessions;—and we are glad to find him setting so good an example. His hesitation on some few minor points gives all the more weight to the rest of his statements.

The text of this edition differs less from that of Zumpt's edition of 1831 than any other. It was originally the editor's intention to give Zumpt's text just as it stands, and merely accompany it with notes. But finding, on examination, that he could not adopt any one text, he determined to form one of his own, though at the cost of much labour. Even now he considers the text of these orations as not finally settled. Among other amendments on previous editions published in this country, he has much improved the punctuation.—The Introduction contains an interesting account of the circumstances which led to the composition of the orations.

We hope the remaining works of this series may be worthy of the first. In that case, the publication of the 'Bibliotheca Classica' will be an event worth remembering among the other memorable events of this remarkable year.

History of England from the Peace of Utrecht.
By Lord Mahon. Vols. V. and VI. Murray.
THE present volumes of Lord Mahon's work contain a history of England during seventeen years. The early part of George the Third's reign is a period little known. We of this generation are cut off from it by the gulf of we know not how many revolutions—American, French, German, Spanish, Polish, Greek, Dutch, Danish, Italian, Hungarian,—by wars and combinations of a magnitude before unknown in the modern life of Europe,—by the opening of a new era of thought, sentiment, political action and moral progress in both hemispheres. Yet those early years constitute a period of curious and profound—if not grand and dramatic—interest for all Englishmen. Our present forms of government were then definitely fixed. The spirit of electoral reform was then

first evoked. The power of the ruling families was then shaken. The Commons then made large advances towards supremacy in the legislature. Then, our Indian empire was won. Then, the troubles with our American colonies—out of which emerged an Empire Republic—arose. During that time, England entered into the course of material developments which has not only changed the outward aspect of the country but effected prodigious results in the moral and physical character of the population. It is a common saying, that the history of the world began again at the Revolution in France; but the man who should content himself with that movement as a point of departure, even in his studies of French history, would have a most confused idea of the causes and relations of subsequent events. For Englishmen there can be but little doubt that the years here traversed by Lord Mahon constitute some of the most important in our historical series.

Looking at the period in question, not as it presented itself in daily detail to Chatham or to Burke, but in its entire aspect and meaning, it seems to separate itself, as it were, for historical review into three grand divisions:—the succession of ministerial and political events,—the rise and earlier vicissitudes of the American war,—and the literary, social, and material progress of the people in town and country. On all these points the materials exist in abundance. The reader may search the Chatham, Bedford, Walpole, Burke, and other "memorials" and "correspondence" for the first,—the Washington papers, the Ministerial correspondence preserved in our State Paper Office, the Franklin, Jefferson, Adams, and multitudinous other lives and letters, English and American, including the volumes of the Massachusetts, the Pennsylvania and other Historical Societies, for the second,—court diaries, manuals of commerce, almanacks, lives of men like Brindley, Gibbon, Watt and Adam Smith, the chronicle department of the 'Annual Register,' files of the 'Gazetteer,' 'Public Advertiser,' and other newspapers, together with the fugitive writings of Fielding, Johnson, Wilkes, Churchill, and the legion of satirists and pamphleteers, for the third.

But Lord Mahon is too timid—too conventionally respectable—for such a work. What he has done on a large scale, he has done well enough:—just as might be expected from his culture and his political leaning. The tangled web of court and ministerial intrigue is unravelled, exhibited, and knitted up again by him with a minute dexterity to which works like that of Mr. Adolphus can make no pretension. The origin and progress of discontent in America, as they appear to one having no sympathy with revolutions, are traced with a copious precision, and in the new light of a purely English—without being a high Tory—point of view. The other—perhaps the most essential—part of the historian's task Lord Mahon has gone over in an extremely brief, vague and unsatisfactory manner. With the exception of a short chapter on literature and art placed, in the manner of Hume, at the end of his work, as if these subjects had only an incidental and altogether subsidiary connexion with the history of the time, some eight or nine pages are all that he devotes out of nearly eleven hundred to the entire range of topics embraced in the term "social history." Lord Mahon says little or nothing about the crime and criminals of the country, though the records of these are so curious, copious and interesting,—the penal legislation, which during the seventeen years here treated of took so dark, savage and repressive a course in England,—the humane labours of such men as John Howard and Jonas Hanway,—the state of education,

habits of life, manners and opinions of the great masses of the population. No doubt, it would be a laborious work to master all the necessary matter for such a portraiture of the moral and material life of the country at that time as we are here suggesting. The writer would have to seek his matter, too, at many unpleasant sources:—Newgate records—old books on debtors' prisons—obscene tracts—squibs and satires—many of them little interesting, and nearly all gross and offensive to nice taste, but yet invaluable for their facts and inferences. When Mr. Macaulay tells his readers that he is ashamed to say how low down in the depths of trash and indecency he has had to dig for his matter, he states a necessity common to every writer of research. It is from such sources even more than from the quarries of court intrigue and parliamentary warfare that the skilful analyst extracts the materials of his historical edifice. Lord Mahon has shunned this part of his task, as beyond either his taste or his strength.—There is no denying that he has usage on his side.

The political narrative here given—including the Wilkes troubles, the last administration, retirement and death of Chatham, the story of the Grenville, Rockingham, Grafton and North ministries—is so far as it goes a useful addition to our historical library. Lord Mahon has had the opportunity of consulting many MSS.—including the Grenville papers, a memoir of the Duke of Grafton, and Sir James Mackintosh's copies of letters written by George the Third to Lord North.

The story of these volumes opens with the waning of Lord Bute's fortunes. Grenville succeeded, on his fall, to the office of Premier. His chief colleagues were—Lord Egremont, "proud, self-sufficient, and incapable," wrote Chesterfield,—and Lord Halifax, described by the same excellent judge of men as one who had "parts, application and personal disinterestedness." Their administration is known in history by two of the most signal blunders ever made by statesmen:—the issuing General Warrants even without the old formality of an oath,—and the attempt to tax the American colonies without their consent and in the absence of any just representation. The case of Wilkes is dwelt on at considerable length by Lord Mahon,—as was indeed indispensable to a correct understanding of those times. Of course, the sedate noble of the nineteenth has no sympathy with the demagogue of the eighteenth century. He rather takes pleasure in bringing out the less reputable points of the latter's character and career. Thus we find Wilkes introduced to the reader's acquaintance.

"He was born in 1727, the son of a rich distiller. Early in life he set up a brewery for himself, but soon relinquished the wearisome business. Early in life also he improved his fortune by his marriage with the daughter and heiress of the celebrated Dr. Mead, the author of the 'Treatise on Poisons.' But this lady, being of maturer age than himself, and of slight personal attractions, was speedily slighted, and he left her with as much disgust as he had his brewery. In 1757 he was elected Member of Parliament for Aylesbury, but never obtained any success as an orator, his speeches being, though flippant, yet feeble. In truth he had no great ability of any kind, but dauntless courage and high animal spirits. Nor should we deny him another much rarer praise,—a vein of good humour and kindness which did not forsake him through all his long career, amidst the riot of debauchery or the rancour of faction. So agreeable and insinuating was his conversation that more than one fair dame as she listened found herself forget his sinister squint and his ill-favoured countenance. He used to say of himself in a laughing strain, that though he was the ugliest man in England, he wanted nothing to make him even with the handsomest but half an hour at

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starting! Politics indeed seemed at first wholly alien from Wilkes's sphere; gaiety and gallantry were his peculiar objects. For some time he reigned as the oracle of green-rooms and the delight of taverns, in conjunction with other kindred spirits, as Paul Whitehead and Sir Francis Dashwood, amounting in all to twelve, he rented Medmenham Abbey, near Marlow. It is a secluded and beautiful spot on the banks of the Thames, with hanging woods that slope down to the crystal stream, a grove of venerable elms, and meadows of the softest green. In days of old it had been a convent of Cistercian monks, but the new brotherhood took the title of Franciscans in compliment to Sir Francis Dashwood, whom they called their Father Abbot. On the portal, now again in ruins, and once more resigned to its former solitude and silence, I could still a few years since read the inscription placed there by Wilkes and his friends: *“Fay ce que voudras.* Other French and Latin inscriptions, now with good reason effaced, then appeared in other parts of the grounds, some of them remarkable for wit, but all for either profanity or obscenity, and many the more highly applauded as combining both. In this retreat the new Franciscans used often to meet for summer pastimes, and varied the round of their debauchery by a mock celebration of the principal Roman Catholic rites."

There is more in this statement than we dare warrant. As Wilkes proceeded with a private tutor from school to Leyden, and afterwards travelled on the Continent—returned to England in 1749, while in the twenty-second year of his age, and was in that same year married to the great heiress, we doubt the preliminary brewery business; and, unless her own daughter was in error, we must believe that Mrs. Wilkes was not the daughter of Dr. *Richard Mead*, but of *William Mead*, drysaler, whose house of business had been on London Bridge.

John Wilkes, though he did good work in his time, is scarcely likely to be claimed as a hero by anybody in this day, unless his resolute will should recommend him to the sympathies of Mr. Carlyle. He was a vain, obstinate, clever, unprincipled man. But with all his faults—which he wore openly on his sleeve, —we cannot agree with Lord Mahon in his sweeping condemnation of the great popular constituency that four several times returned him, in spite of so many expulsions from the House of Commons, member for Middlesex. No doubt, the Ministry was in an awkward position; for the King—though Lord Mahon gives no prominence to the fact—was resolved not to allow Wilkes to take his seat, and the House of Commons—in spite of the protests of men like Burke and Chatham—had repeatedly exhibited a similar determination. Still, there can be no doubt that it was the first duty of the Ministers to cause the constitution of the land to be respected. Their excuse was lame to the last degree. They could easily, of course, find precedents for expelling a member disabled by law; and the King himself suggested to them the case of John Ward, who had been expelled in 1727 for forgery! But, as Lord Mahon very properly observes, the cases were entirely different. Ward's disability arose out of a positive violation of the law,—Wilkes's from a mere vote of the House of Commons. But the expulsion itself became a secondary question after the open and flagrant violation of all law, and even of the great Charter itself, in declaring Colonel Luttrell "duly elected," contrary to the return of the sheriffs—contrary to the fact that Wilkes had 1,143 votes, while only 296 were given for Luttrell; and it is but poor consolation to know that in 1782 the House consented, on the motion of Wilkes himself, to expunge such Resolution from its Journals.

Of Wilkes's arrest and prosecution, by order of the House of Lords, on the motion of his royster-

ing companion of Medmenham, Lord Sandwich, the historian gives this account.—

"It appears that Wilkes had, several years before, and in some of his looser hours, composed a parody of Pope's 'Essay on Man.' In this undertaking which, according to his own account, cost him a great deal of pains and time, he was, it is said, assisted by Thomas Potter, second son of the late Archbishop of Canterbury, who had been Secretary of Frederick Prince of Wales, and had since shown ability and gained office in the House of Commons, but was (as well became one of Wilkes's friends) of lax morals in his private life. The result of their joint authorship, however, has little wit or talent to make any amends for the blasphemy and lewdness with which it abounds. As the original had been inscribed by Pope to Lord Bolingbroke, so was the parody by Wilkes to Lord Sandwich; thus it began, 'Awake my Sandwich!' instead of 'Awake my St. John!' Thus also, in ridicule of Warburton's well-known commentary, some burlesque notes were appended in the name of the Right Reverend the Bishop of Gloucester. This worthless poem had remained in manuscript, and lain in Wilkes's desk, until in the previous spring he had occasion to set up a press at his own house, and was tempted to print fourteen copies only as presents to his boon companions. Of one of these copies the Government obtained possession, through a subordinate agent, and by not very creditable means, and Lord Sandwich holding it forth in his hand with the air of injured innocence denounced it as not only scandalous and impious, but also as a breach of Privilege against the Bishop as a Peer of Parliament. He likewise complained of another profane parody, written by the same hand, and printed on the same occasion; this last was entitled, 'The VENI CREATOR' paraphrased.' The most offensive passages of both were now by Lord Sandwich's order read aloud to the House, until Lord Lyttleton with a groan entreated that they might hear no more! In the discussion which ensued Bishop Warburton, forgetting that such ribaldries could not really tarnish his character, showed a heat which little became it. He exclaimed that the blackest fiends in Hell would disdain to keep company with Wilkes,—and then asked pardon of Satan for comparing them together! Both the Earl and Bishop in their passion would have readily over-leaped the common forms of justice. The former, after producing evidence at the Bar as to the authorship of Wilkes, wished the House to take measures for his prosecution without the least delay. But the Peers, although readily agreeing to vote the two parodies blasphemous and breaches of Privilege, resolved, on the motion of Lord Mansfield, to adjourn all further questions until the day after the next, so as to give Wilkes the opportunity, if he desired it, of alleging any matter in denial or defence. While these things were transacting in the Lords, Horace Walpole, as a Member of the House of Commons, happened to hear of them, and going up to Pitt, with whom he was dividing in the lobby, told him what had passed,—how, as it seemed, the Government had been ransacking Wilkes's desk in search of libels. Pitt replied, with just indignation: 'Why do they not search the Bishop of Gloucester's study for heresy?'

Here, again, we are not prepared to vouch for the perfect accuracy of Lord Mahon's statement. As his Lordship observes, very few copies of the work were printed;—the original edition is therefore scarce. Indeed, to find the true Simon Impure requires long research, and in the very dirtiest of our literary kennels; and if his lordship had not illustrated his judgment by particular references, we should have come to the conclusion that, like so many other writers, he had founded his judgment on report, and not on examination. As it is, we will only venture to say that the Parody, when we saw it, was not "inscribed" to Lord Sandwich, and did not begin with "Awake my Sandwich."

By their own folly and stupidity, the Ministers made a martyr of Wilkes. Left alone, he could not have seriously troubled their repose. Their imbecile tyranny caused all the sense, manliness and liberal feeling existing in the middle and lower classes to rally round him

as a man in whose person they found their own rights and privileges menaced. Walpole relates that public indignation was instantly transferred from the poem to its denouncers—and especially to Lord Sandwich.—

"A few days after the opening scene in the House of Lords a strong proof of the popular sentiment was given at Covent Garden Theatre as the Beggar's Opera was acting. When Macheath came to the words 'That Jemmy Twitcher should peach I own surprises me,—the whole audience with one unanimous shout of applause marked the application."

The nick-name stuck to him through life, and is still preserved in many of the satirical poems of that day:—as, for instance, in Gray's lampoon, where *Divinity* says to him:—

"Never hang down your head, you poor penitent elf!
Come, kiss me,—I'll be Mrs. Twitcher myself!"

A curious incident in connexion with the Wilkes affair was, the rebuke administered to Blackstone—then member for Westbury—by Mr. Grenville. The famous Commentator recollecting "that he had a place to preserve, though he forgot that he had a reputation to lose,"—spoke strongly against Wilkes's right to his seat in the House:—and Grenville answered him by a passage from his own work! This retort led Junius to say, in his stinging way:—"For the defence of truth, of law and reason, the doctor's book may be safely consulted; but whoever wishes to cheat a neighbour of his estate, or to rob a country of its rights, need make no scruple of consulting the doctor himself."

Speaking of *Junius*,—Lord Mahon of course devotes some pages to the discussion of this literary mystery; and he gives it as his unhesitating belief, that the substance of that famous shadow is none other than Sir Philip Francis. Lord Mahon seems also to be of opinion that all the letters signed *Atticus*, *Mnemon*, *Lucius* and *Brutus* are from the same pen as those signed *Junius*. Lord Mahon advances no new facts in favour of the claim made for Sir Philip Francis. Indeed, he does not really argue the point, and almost contents himself with the summary expression of a personal opinion. "I will not affect," he says, "to speak with doubt when no doubt exists in my mind. From the proofs adduced by others, and on a clear conviction of my own, I affirm that the author of *Junius* was no other than Sir Philip Francis." This seems a somewhat easy and magisterial way of settling a difficulty. With regard to the "clear conviction" of Lord Mahon's own mind, we think we have a right to ask him for the special grounds on which it is formed,—because on any known to us, such a declaration of faith, after all that has been written on this subject, would seem to argue an incapacity for dealing with the plain results of evidence. Until the historian shall condescend to tell us what are the "proofs adduced by others" to which he refers, we can of course form no notion of the new elements which these may import into the question:—but in so far as this phrase relates to additional evidence furnished by the Grenville Papers, we may observe that those documents will soon be before us in a published form, and we shall then have the opportunity of seeing what further support they lend to the hypothesis in which Lord Mahon pronounces himself to be so undoubting a believer. Meanwhile, having been ourselves permitted to examine what are called "the letters of *Junius*," found amongst the Stowe Papers—that is to say, certain letters believed to be in the handwriting of *Junius*, and, "not all" as Lord Mahon states, but two out of three signed "C,"—we venture to say, that they do not contain one sentence, one expression, one word, which the most ingenious of sophists could make to bear on the question whether Francis was or was not the writer. Further, we happen to know, that

the editor of the Stowe Papers—who, it must be presumed, is as well acquainted with them as Lord Mahon—has come to a different conclusion. Of course, as we stated long since, the writer of one of those letters claims therein to be the author of a letter signed "Atticus," of which he forwarded a copy, cut from the newspapers. Does this prove him to have been the writer of all the letters signed "Atticus"? Does Lord Mahon know the extent of such a claim—the absurdities and contradictions which it involves?

The foreign affairs of the period here treated are passed over somewhat meagrely. Even the dismemberment of Poland excites in Lord Mahon no glow of feeling—calls forth no expression of indignation.—

"The Court of St. James's [he says] can scarcely, as it seems to me, be blamed in abstaining from hostile measures, and coldly acquiescing in the partition of Poland. To do otherwise England must have reversed her whole previous policy, and sought alliance with the sovereigns of the Family Compact, Louis the Fifteenth and Charles the Third. She must have relied upon, and acted with, the abject Ministry of Madame Du Barry. She must have renounced the hope, on which at that time her ablest statesmen set the utmost value, of a close alliance with the Court of Russia. And if we could not take part in the conflict frankly and directly, still less could we do so indirectly; still less was it consistent with our dignity and honour, while ourselves remaining inactive, to fan the flames of war between Turkey and Russia, as our ambassador at Constantinople attempted at one moment contrary to his instructions."

George the Third and the Earl of Chatham are intended to be Lord Mahon's two heroic figures:—but the first is a complete failure. The noble historian can scarcely find words sufficiently warm to express his admiration of a prince who, as Byron sang—

— ever warred with freedom and the free ;
Nations as men, home subjects, foreign foes,
So that they muttered the word Liberty.

—The figure of the elder Pitt stands out more boldly and more worthily from the canvas.

Among minor characters, that of Wedderburn is well drawn. Churchill's severe lines on this Scotch lawyer, beginning—

A pert prim prater of the northern race,
Guilt in his heart and famine in his face,
Mute at the Bar and in the Senate loud—

were applied to him in the early part of his career; but Junius at a later period painted him in one of his most trenchant lines:—"As for Mr. Wedderburn, there is something about him which even treachery cannot trust." Lord Mahon strikes a sort of balance between his good and his bad qualities.—

"He had the rare gift of speaking speciously on any side of any question; his stock of learning, if not vast, was at least sufficient and ever at command; and he would have been upon the whole a great man were it possible to be so without some share of public virtue. But public virtue was in him altogether wanting. In political affairs, such at least is my own firm belief, he looked not to the merits of the question, but solely and singly to his prospect of deriving from it some personal advantage. Nor can it

deriving from it some personal advantage. Nor can it with truth be pleaded that Wedderburn sought high office merely as affording a wider scope of public usefulness. On the contrary, he might be charged with a love of ostentatious splendour. He told the Earl of Harrington that on the very day he became Solicitor General he had ordered a service of plate which cost him 8,000*l.* He appears to have changed his political associates to and fro with little concern. Indeed a character so cold and selfish could scarce be expected to glow with any ardour of private friendship, and though he loved society he never shone in it. 'What can he mean,' cried Foote, 'by coming among us? He is not only dull himself but the cause of dullness in others.'—'I never heard anything from him that was at all striking,' said Dr. Johnson to Boswell. But he deserves this high praise, that to men of genius he was uniformly kind. He always acknowledged fully their claim to

public respect, and on several important occasions even when most clearly on the other side in politics, he showed himself the enlightened and generous protector of literary merit."

Of Thurlow we have a more finished and engaging portrait:—but here we must pause. A considerable portion of Lord Mahon's volumes, as we have already intimated, is occupied with the familiar story of the American War; but beyond the novelty of his point of view there is nothing in the story calling for special remark at our hands.

Neuralgia: its various Forms, Pathology, and Treatment. By C. Toogood Downing, M.D. Churchill.

Churchill.

Dr. Downing was the successful competitor for the Jacksonian prize of the Royal College of Surgeons of England in the year 1850. Its subject was, those painful affections of the nerves which, not being attended with inflammation or other organic change, have been called Neuralgia. Although this term was at one time confined to the more intensely painful disorders of the nerves, such as *tic doloreux*, it is now applied so generally as to embrace all affections in which the nerves indicate the slightest exaltation of their sensory function. These disorders are very painful, and frequently resist the best devised systems of cure. This arises probably from their causes being misunderstood,—the true nature of the departure from health on the part of the nerve affected being entirely unknown. So long as the intimate structure and function of the nerves shall be so little known as they are at present we cannot expect to find a remedy for all the derangements of these important organs.

The researches, however, of both anatomists and pathologists are constantly revealing new facts which serve as materials for the better elucidation of such diseases as neuralgia. It has been the object of Dr. Downing in the work before us to bring to bear the scattered facts of physiology and morbid anatomy on the investigation of the nature and proper treatment of this disease. He does not come forward vauntingly to introduce a new method of cure,—but he gives the result of a treatment which has been successful in his own hands,—and which from all that we can see is not open to any reasonable objection. This treatment consists in the application of the vapour of water to the parts affected, by means

of an apparatus of Dr. Downing's own invention.—The book is not written, however, for the purpose of introducing this method of treatment. That subject is subsidiary to a large amount of very useful information which the author has collected with diligence and arranged with skill on the subject of neuralgic diseases. The varieties of this disease—as, the rheumatic, the spasmodic, and the hysterical,—with their special developments in all the more prominent nerves of the body, are fully described:—whilst the causes of the various methods of treatment are all so completely and ably discussed, that we know of no work which can be compared to this on the subject to which it is devoted.—We doubt not that it will become a standard work of reference among professional men.

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

"Common Sense" on the Domestic Habits of the People. With six Illustrations by George Cruikshank.—This is a reprint of letters which have appeared in some of the Scottish papers, with, possibly, the addition of new matter. Their writer's praiseworthy object is to protest against the desolation and wretchedness wrought among our lower classes by drunkenness,— and to recommend, among other remedial measures, a re-arrangement of the time at which workmen's wages have been so long paid. He would have masters distribute their money in the middle of the week, and men, in all practicable cases, have a portion of the Saturday to be added by way of holiday to the next day's Sabbath. These arguments, and the fearful examples of degradation and crime by which they

are enforced (principally gathered among the population of Glasgow), are further struck home by half-a-dozen illustrations, in which Mr. Cruikshank may be said to repeat, with some alterations, his forcible, though coarse, homily of 'The Bottle.'— Though some of the statements and recommendations of 'Common Sense' may be open to remark as savouring of exaggeration, the meaning of his letters is too sound, and their matter is generally too striking, not to recommend them to those whose field of labour is amongst the poor.

City Men and City Manners.—This is an enlarged reprint of a little volume under the above title which appeared some time since. The sketches are on the whole fairly written; but neither the information nor the description rises above the level of ordinary newspaper paragraphs.

A Guide through and around Bath, for the use of such as are desirous to see of the place—the most possible, in a time—the least possible. By Indicator.—Shade of Anstey!—is it possible that thy exquisite 'Bath Guide,' so long the delight of ancient lords and dames, the envy of poetizers and literary fops, should be elbowed by vulgarity like this,—innocent of Lindley Murray and guilty of Holywell Street!

What shall we do with Smithfield? By an Old Sanitary Reformer.—The "Old Sanitary Reformer" professes to show the Corporation of the City how they can add some thirty thousand pounds to their yearly revenue by accepting the offer made to them by Parliament to construct a new cattle-market out of town, and to erect public markets, a park or gardens, baths, wash-houses, &c., on the site of Smithfield. Certain estimates are given, but we have no means of testing their correctness.

Du Bourg; or, the Mercuriale: a Sketch of the Secret Church of Paris in the Middle of the Sixteenth Century. By M. A. S. Barber.—The Mercuriale, a Court so called from the circumstance of its meeting on Wednesdays, was charged with the inquisition of morals in the other Courts and Parliaments of France; but political and religious offences came also within its jurisdiction, and its career was for a time not unlike that of our own Star Chamber. Such a Court must of course furnish many rich materials for the historical romance writer: but Mr., Miss, or Mrs. Barber possesses no power to call to new life the dim shades of by-gone horrors. The story of 'Du Bourg,' half-historical half-romantic, is not well told; and the doctrinal points are dwelt on at tiresome length for a tale, in a very vague and superficial way for a book of serious controversy.

controversy. *Treatise on Political Economy.* By George Opdyke.—Mr. Opdyke is an American, and his book reaches us from New York. We are told in the preface that the author undertook to investigate the science of political economy entirely from the resources of his own reason and observation,—“not by consulting elaborate works” on the subject; and a claim is put forward on behalf of the present publication as being to a great extent “an original inquiry.” This claim is altogether without foundation. Mr. Opdyke is quite incompetent to undertake the re-construction of political economy as a distinct branch of knowledge; and the faults of his book are precisely those which might be expected from the efforts of a man of limited powers endeavouring to master without aid the intricacies of a score of difficult questions. Mr. Opdyke’s nomenclature is uncouth and incorrect,—and his reasonings are as often wrong as right. Starting without guides, he has gone in a false direction from the first, because he has very naturally failed to catch those nice and technical leading terms of the science which have been fully developed and established only by the labours of all the disciples of Adam Smith. At this time of day extemporized treatises on political economy are both unprofitable and mischievous:—and Mr. Opdyke’s volume is the last and one of the strongest illustrations of this remark that has fallen under our notice. We do not mean to say that political economy as at present taught is perfect:—far from it. But we say, that for any man to attempt to construct a new system before he is thoroughly acquainted with the old ones is a piece of mere folly.

is then lauded for starting off to examine Jones's Sound,—to which inlet, say the Committee, "his own instructions directed attention."—Now, what will our readers think of the impartiality of this Committee when they are told that Capt. Austin's instructions enjoined him to search Wellington Channel (which he did not do)—and that Jones's Sound is not once mentioned in that document, the examination of it having been specially reserved for Capt. Penny, who, true to his orders, endeavoured to penetrate it, but was foiled by ice?—The Committee, it will be observed, lay great stress on Capt. Penny's letters as being the only channel through which Capt. Austin could form his judgment respecting the search of Wellington Channel and its outlets. It is desirable to show that although Capt. Austin is now willing and anxious to regard Capt. Penny's Expedition as issuing equally with his own from the Admiralty, he was careful to make a distinction when in the Arctic Regions. Writing to Commander De Haven of the United States Expedition, he says:—"I feel called upon by the position in which I am placed as the lawful representative of the Government of the country by which the Expedition was equipped, to propose that the Expedition so nobly sent forward by the United States of America, and the *mercantile* Expedition fitted out by the British Government and placed under the charge of Mr. Penny do," &c. &c.—Does Capt. Austin know the meaning of the word "mercantile"?—and did he not then know that Capt. Penny's Expedition had nothing whatever mercantile in its nature, but was proceeding like his own under Admiralty orders?

Notwithstanding the contemptuous coldness exhibited by Capt. Austin towards Capt. Penny, the latter very properly made the former acquainted with the principal circumstances of his exploration of Wellington Channel. This he did verbally,—as he modestly states, he is unused to official correspondence; and he adds:—"To a man like me, one conversation is worth fifty letters." On the 11th of August last, he went on board Capt. Austin's ship, the *Resolute*, accompanied by his second officer, Capt. Stewart; and had an interview with Capt. Austin in his cabin, there being no other person present; for Capt. Ommanney, who afterwards joined Capt. Austin, states that Capt. Penny had been there some time. What took place on that occasion we will leave Capt. Penny to tell in his own words.—

"I stated verbally to Capt. Austin, that it was my conviction that Sir John Franklin had gone through the strait leading north-west out of Wellington Channel (which I have named Victoria Channel), and that he had gone off in clear water, and that he was beyond our reach. I meant of course beyond the reach of my parties and my means. He did not seem disposed to credit my statement. I begged him to give me one of his steamers, and I would take the *Sophia*, and would act as pilot, and go up the channel and wait to see if the ice would clear away, that he would thus have the advantage of my practical experience. Capt. Austin declined this request, and went away. Late at night he wrote me a note, saying:—"Is Wellington Channel searched or is it not searched?" My reply in writing was, "Sir, your question is easily answered. I did all in the power of man to do in Wellington Channel. It requires no further search." I feel convinced that I have given the exact words I used, and I limited myself to the question he put to me. Capt. Austin is perfectly aware that I had previously put before him all the circumstances, and that I had discovered open water leading north-west out of Wellington Channel. The last thing I said was, "Go up into the Wellington Channel, and you will do good service to the cause."

When Capt. Penny was asked by the Committee whether he had "ever recommended Capt. Austin, in writing, to go up Wellington Strait?" He answered—"Certainly not. What was the use in writing when I was letting him know what I had done?"

How far Capt. Penny's statements are borne out by the witness present on this important occasion, let the following extract from Capt. Stewart's evidence attest.—

"After the *Resolute* came into Assistance Bay, I went on board with the chart, and Capt. Penny followed immediately afterwards. After they had looked over the chart, and Capt. Penny had explained to Capt. Austin where he had been, he asked Capt. Austin for a steamer. He said to him, 'You say we have been acting in concert. Let us prove the sincerity of that concert. Give me a steamer and with the little *Sophia*, I will go up 500 miles further.' Capt. Austin did not say 'No,' but he drew himself up—refused. I do not recollect the exact words he said; but it was a refusal. He said something, and Capt. Penny said, 'Then I know the truth of your sincerity, and I will have nothing more to

do with you.' Then, Capt. Penny left immediately, but displeased and disappointed. This took place on the 11th of August, on board the *Resolute*."

To this strong testimony we may add that of Lieut. Aldrich,—who declares that "he heard people say that Capt. Penny had asked for a steamer, and that he told him he should ask." Mr. Goodsir states that he heard on the 12th of August that "Capt. Penny had applied for assistance with a steamer to proceed up the Wellington Channel." Commander Phillips states:—"Subsequent to the 25th of July 1851, Capt. Penny said to me, as he was going up the ladder, 'I shall ask Capt. Austin to put a steamer under my orders,' or words to that effect. I made no observation, because I knew there would be technical difficulties in the way." On being asked what he meant by technical difficulties, he replied:—"I mean, that we could not put a naval officer under command of Capt. Penny."—"It was not in reference to the steam?" "Oh, no." Sir John Ross also adduces testimony in favour of Capt. Penny's assertion that he solicited a steamer:—"but our readers will probably agree with us, that with the evidence which we have already got, we may dispense with this particular officer's confirmation. In the face of Capt. Penny's statement, however, and of all the corroborating evidence, Capt. Austin—unbacked by a single witness—unhesitatingly says:—"Capt. Penny never asked for a steamer; nor did he ever give me the slightest reason to hope that either trace or rescue was to be obtained by sending a steamer up Wellington Channel!" Surely this is very sad. On one side or on the other there is what we suppose it will be courteous to call a mistake—fair, however, to call a very wonderful one:—and the public verdict is, we presume, likely to follow the multitude of witnesses.

But, to show the spirit by which Capt. Austin was animated—and in which he thinks himself free to weigh the arrangements of the Admiralty, and to make personal compromises with the public service—he shall be allowed to pronounce his own condemnation.—"I put," he says, "some close questions to Capt. Penny,—but not by any means so close as I should have put to Capt. Ommanney or any one of his rank." (1) Now, here we have the key to the seeming mystery.—The royal navy captain scorned to take information or advice from the captain of a "mercantile" Expedition, though sailing like himself under Admiralty orders, and engaged, with him, at great national cost, on a common work of humanity. Sir John Franklin and his gallant companions might lie and rot in "thick-ribbed ice"—and the yearnings of a generous country after its long lost sons be spurned and disregarded—rather than the former commander of a whaler should show the way to the rescue. Capt. Austin doubtless considers that his brother officers would prefer not being saved at all to being saved by means so undignified. Capt. Cook was a personage of some enterprise and celebrity—but he had been once a seaman on board a Sunderland collier,—and no doubt Capt. Austin must have refused to "march through" any "Coventry" with Capt. Cook.

This bad spirit of martinetiship—this affection of the epaullet—breaks out in many pages of the evidence,—and we are sorry to say has broken out elsewhere. Capt. Penny, as we have said, modestly tells the Committee that his is not the pen of a ready writer. What shall be thought of the taste that prints one of his letters—evidently written at a time of excitement, and which he could never have contemplated would have been made public—in which the word duty is spelt dutys,—and the wrong spelling, instead of being corrected, is carefully pointed out by the denouncing comment (*sic*):—as much as to say,—"You see, Capt. Penny cannot spell,—he is not an officer of the navy. It would have been highly indecorous to let him bring home Sir John Franklin."—In the same spirit, we find a member of the Committee thus prefacing a question to Capt. Penny:—"We do not expect from you any scientific matter beyond what you have given us with respect to the latitudes; but I may ask you," &c.—Of course not. The science comes with the com-

mission;—as "wisdom with the wig." Let us nevertheless, tell this committee-man, that Capt. Penny, though unskilled in the art of drawing up official despatches, is a navigator of great experience, and would, if we are not misinformed, conduct a ship through the intricacies of Arctic navigation in a far more able manner than the R.N. admirals and captains (it is no disparagement to them to say so,) who sat in judgment on him.—These pettinesses would be scarcely worth dwelling on here, were it not that they explain better than more serious things the mere *esprit de corps* as sacrifice to which fine Expedition, and a nation's hopes in it, have been jauntily thrown away.

Rearing, however, in mind the exalted opinion which Capt. Austin entertained of his own expedition as compared with the mercantile undertaking,—seeing how low the commander of the latter ranked in his estimation,—it is certainly not a little surprising that a letter from this humble individual should now be brought forward as an all-sufficient reason for the abandonment of the search up Wellington Channel. Capt. Austin's "dignity" is not consistent. Its service is intermittent; and this is a trick that a spurious dignity often plays its possessor,—while true dignity is calm, grave and unimpeachable. We have seen that Capt. Austin and Capt. Penny had an interview, during which the latter made the former acquainted with all his proceedings. Subsequently to this interview, it was arranged that Capt. Austin and Capt. Ommanney should go and pay a "complimentary" visit to Capt. Penny. Capt. Austin shall himself describe what now occurred.—

"We proceeded on board the *Lady Franklin* and in the cabin were assembled Capt. Penny, Capt. Stewart, Capt. Ommanney and myself. I said to Capt. Penny:—"Now, Capt. Penny, let us set aside all feelings of regard to that effect. We are going home non-successful. Depend upon it we shall be called upon now—*or words to that effect*. It is now necessary that we should take upon ourselves a certain amount of responsibility, and there must be a little official correspondence pass between you and me. Capt. Austin then desired that Capt. Penny would give him an answer to his letter requiring him to state officially the result of his search for Sir John Franklin; and added—"Penny, I will tell you what, if you will tell me and give me from under your hand that you are satisfied with the work you have performed, I will not go up the Wellington Channel. It will not be satisfactory before the public that we are advertising.—How I was able to maintain myself as an officer and a gentleman I cannot tell. I then said to Capt. Penny—"Now reflect; as soon as you give me your answer you may rely upon it that I shall not look over your work, and you will then know what are my plans for the future." I then bade him good-bye."

Capt. Austin now returned to his ship, and waited up until midnight for Capt. Penny's answer. Being, as he states, much fatigued, he then went to bed, but not before writing to Capt. Penny again urging him for an official answer.—It was under these harassing circumstances that the blunt seaman, *in the middle of the night*, wrote his answer,—being, as he states, greatly irritated, and little imagining the use that would be made of his letter. We repeat it here.—

"Your question is easily answered. My opinion is, Wellington Channel requires no further search; all has been done in the power of man to accomplish, and no trace has been found. What else can be done?"

A few hours after Capt. Austin received this, he apprised Capt. Penny that he did not intend to search in the direction of Wellington Strait;—and the Committee, as we have seen, conceive that Capt. Austin acted wisely in coming to this conclusion, for that he could "only form his judgment on Mr. Penny's written communication."—It is quite manifest that he had previously made up his mind to return home,—as his words "We are going home non-successful" attest.

This brings us to the second clause of the Report, in which Capt. Austin is exonerated for believing that by Wellington Channel Capt. Penny meant to embrace all the water to the north-west. In support of this view, the Committee publish the rough track chart furnished to Capt. Austin by Capt. Penny, in which they say no distinction is drawn between Victoria and Wellington Channel.—Now, the track chart is absolutely barren of names,—it being intended merely to show the routes taken by Capt. Penny's exploring parties; and Capt. Austin knew well that only a portion of the open water forming a continuation of Wel-

lington Channel clearly shown is made. The Committee was unexp. Capt. Austin in this channel Committee that Capt. such a view. The Committee for transfer to the ice in the same imp. One would alone on the sub. he was what says—"The experience clares: —"Did you wait in the ice it was the 12th month of sight of from Cap. Goodlair the entrance decaying clearing will suffice respecting Channel erroneous in 1850. The Am. Strait an latitude be ign. Entire of Wellington Capt. A. consider Expedit. Channel think the Capt. P. the imp. perverse blame of who was adven. left the point of examining involve return Cham. he come what he be it re. the "should cont. not able the v. that C. cordan to exec. other condit. declare another plored be ans. Our fir the out by founded if we adopt

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Report, believing y meant rest. Is blish the Austin by in- flection is. — It is channels, of war- how the parties; a portion of Wel-

ington Channel had been examined. This is clearly shown by the chart itself:—for a distinction is made. The northern portion of Victoria Channel is untraced and uncolored,—demonstrating that it was unexplored. How, then, is it possible that Capt. Austin should suppose that the whole of this channel was searched?—and how could the Committee in a spirit of judicial fairness declare that Capt. Austin was fully justified in taking such a view of the case?

The Committee proceed to praise Capt. Austin for transferring his search to Jones's Sound,—as the ice in Wellington Channel still presented the same impenetrable barrier which it had in 1850.—One would suppose from this, that no doubt existed on the subject:—but on turning to the evidence, hear what the Ice Master of Capt. Austin's ship says:—"There was a channel of water five miles in width along the eastern shore of Wellington Strait, extending from Beechey Island ten or twelve miles to the northward towards Cape Bowden."—"Did you report that to Capt. Austin?"—"Yes."—"In your opinion could you have waited in safety to examine this open water?"—"Yes."—Mr. Abernethy, an ice-master of great experience on board Sir John Ross's ship, declares:—"If ever Wellington Strait was clear of ice it was clear last season; for I saw the ice coming down like stones down a hill, and there was water at the back of it. That was on the 12th of August 1851. We were crossing the mouth of Wellington Strait at the time, within sight of land. It was quite clear; we could see from Cape Hotham to Beechey Island."—Mr. Goodar affirms that when the Expedition left the entrance of Wellington Strait "the ice was decaying; and there was a fair probability of its clearing out of Wellington Strait."—This evidence will suffice to contradict the Committee's assertion respecting the state of the ice in Wellington Channel last summer. They convey an equally erroneous impression as to its impenetrability in 1850. In the month of September of that year the American ships were carried through the Strait and up the Channel as far as 75° 25' north latitude:—a fact that the Committee cannot have been ignorant of, and should not have forgotten.

Entirely and unjustly overlooking that the field of Wellington Channel was especially confided to Capt. Austin, the Committee proceed to say that considerable benefit might have arisen if one of the Expeditions had remained near the entrance of that Channel about a fortnight longer, — and they think this duty might have been accomplished by Capt. Penny. So that, they are not unmindful of the importance of that opening; but, with singular perverseness, they endeavour to cast the whole blame of its non-examination on Capt. Penny, — who was not charged with the task, but desired ardently to perform it. Really, this Committee, left wholly to themselves, manage to arrive at a point of confusion and contradiction which a cross-examining counsel could scarcely have hoped to involve them in. While they justify Capt. Austin's return to England without examining Wellington Channel, — they recommend that the ships which he commanded shall be sent out again to do just what he omitted to do. And this recommendation, be it remembered, is based on the explorations of the "mercantile" Expedition, but for which we should at this moment be ignorant of the magnificient channel leading north-west:—by far the most notable fact in Arctic exploration discovered since the voyage of Capt. Parry.—It is quite evident that Capt. Austin would have acted better in accordance with his instructions if he had remained out to execute the work which is now to be done by other parties. Bearing in mind the admirable condition of his men and ships—his chief engineer declares that the steamers could have remained out another season effectively—it is indeed to be deplored that he returned to England,—and yet to be answered why.

Our readers may now judge for themselves how far the Report of this Arctic Committee is borne out by the evidence on which it professes to be founded.—It will complete our history of the case if we say, that the Lords of the Admiralty have adopted the Report, and addressed a letter to

Capt. Austin expressing their approval of his conduct,—while Capt. Penny, whose views they are about to carry out, is passed over without being even honourably mentioned:—and that, while Lieut. Cator, who commanded the steam tender attached to Capt. Omanney's ship, has been promoted,—Lieut. Osborn, who commanded Capt. Austin's steam tender, and who had the honourable boldness to express sentiments in favour of Capt. Penny's views, has been passed over!—Can there be any connexion between the latter two facts?

It is, of course, premature to speculate as to who will be appointed to command the Expedition next year. We may, however, congratulate all who take an interest in the fate of our unfortunate countrymen on the certainty that the command will not be entrusted to Capt. Austin or to Capt. Omanney. These officers now, in opposition to authorities of greater experience—including Sir John Richardson—declare their conviction that Sir John Franklin and his party have perished. That conviction excludes the chance of these gentlemen being selected to carry the English flag into a polar basin:—and we trust that the choice will fall on one—whether Admiralty-man or whaling-man we care not—who will go out animated by the same unflagging spirit that influenced the eminent voyagers whose names have shed a glory on the history of English Arctic Expeditions.

A GOSSIP ABOUT GOLD.

WITHOUT attempting to write a treatise or an essay on the difficult and intricate questions which are connected with the present phenomena of the gold discoveries,—it will be agreeable to our readers to have placed before them a few facts and reflections which, until we arrive at more accurate results, should not be overlooked.

In the first place, there seems to be a pretty general admission that the supply of gold in the year just about to conclude will be quite twenty millions sterling. This very considerable sum is made up of fifteen millions from California, four from Russia, and one from Australia. The Californian supply last year is reckoned at ten millions sterling:—so that already there is an increase from that quarter alone of fifty per cent. What may be the results of 1852 it is quite impossible to say. At present it would certainly appear that it is by no means improbable that in 1852 the production of gold may reach some extravagant and almost fabulous amount; for, according to the late advices—and they seem to be authentic—the extent of the production seems to be a question rather of labour than of abundance. In other words, the supply of gold for present practical purposes is described as unlimited; and whether five or fifty millions is to be picked up in the course of a twelvemonth depends wholly on the number of heads, hands and machines devoted to the business of gold-finding.

In Australia the arrangements made by the Colonial Government for preserving something like law and decency in the mining district appear to have been successful. On the 22nd of July last a regulation was set on foot by which a weekly mail accompanied by an armed escort was established between Sydney and Bathurst. The distance is performed in two days,—the consignments of gold sent by this mode of conveyance are deposited with the Colonial Treasurer,—and the charge made for the transit (the Government, however, taking care not to insure the senders against accident or loss) is one per cent. on the value of the consignment, reckoning washed gold at 64s. per oz, and amalgamated gold at 48s. per oz. These facts are at once curious and satisfactory. They indicate most satisfactorily the early development of that spirit of business, tact and strong affection for order which never fails to distinguish English enterprise all over the world. The number of persons actually engaged in gold-finding in Australia was not so great as might be expected—on the Buron the number was about 3,000 and at Ophir about 500. We must remember, however, that July was the Australian winter,—and the subsidence of floods, the departure of frost, and the return of a more genial season would attract multitudes to the gold fields.

So far, it is somewhat curious that the effects of the Australian intelligence have not produced any great increase in the tide of emigration from this country. Several of the recent passenger ships have sailed with their berths only half filled.

Every piece of intelligence that reaches us from the Australian Colonies expresses in some form or other the impatience of the colonists for the establishment by the Imperial Government of that line of steam communication which has been now talked of for four or five years. At Sydney, the people feel no doubt that as soon as intelligence of the gold-finding should reach London a line of packets would be established at once. It is painful to think of the indignation and disappointment which will be occasioned when the real facts are known in the Colony:—when it is ascertained that we have only just concluded a contract for an *alternate monthly* steamer to Sydney *via* the Cape, the vessels for which service have to be built—and that we have only just advertised for tenders for another *alternate monthly* packet to Sydney, as a branch service from the Indian mail line at Singapore. Several months at the least must elapse before either of these lines of steamers can be available; and no one, we imagine, conceives that when in full operation they will constitute an Australian mail service as efficient, expeditious and regular as under present circumstances the colonies and the public have a right to expect,—and as, after more or less of embarrassing delay, they will certainly obtain.

Let us now turn to another part of the subject. It is quite certain that during the three years in which the California "diggings" have been in operation quantity of gold equal to somewhere about thirty millions sterling has been added to the former amount of that metal in existence in the markets of the world; and it is also certain that no corresponding or equivalent increase has taken place in the supplies of silver. The questions then arise,—where has this new thirty millions of gold gone to?—what effects has it produced? These are very natural questions, and very important ones. The stock of gold in the Bank of England is not higher than it has been at recent periods anterior to the Californian influx,—the price of silver, as measured in gold, is not sensibly higher than it was,—and the prices of commodities, far from being higher, are decidedly lower. What, then, is the explanation?—The explanation seems to be very simple: viz. There has been immense absorption of gold into the currencies of America and of France; and that in France at least there has been an enormous liberation of silver from the currency in consequence of the introduction of gold. In both America and France the standard is what is called "double":—that is to say, both gold and silver coins are legal tender according to a certain scale of proportion established by law between the two metals. In America a gold eagle is declared to be equal to so many silver dollars—and in France a gold Napoleon to so many silver francs. The consequence is this:—all debtors pay their debts in the cheapest metal. If gold bears an agio, silver of course is used and gold coins are scarce. If the agio on gold disappears, and is transferred to silver, then gold coins are used and silver coins are melted into bullion. This is precisely what has taken place both in France and in America during the last two years to a very great extent. The increased supply of gold has first removed the agio from gold,—and then silver has been rapidly abandoned as currency, and gold introduced.—We are not able to state in figures the extent to which the substitution has been carried in America; but some returns have been published from the French mint which strikingly show the effect of the change in France. We learn from these returns, that while the coinage of gold in France was less than half a million sterling for some years previous to 1848, it rose in that year to one and a half million sterling,—in 1849 to two millions,—in 1850 to three and a half millions,—and in the first ten months of 1851 to no less than ten and a quarter millions. In America the facts we imagine would be still stronger. We are enabled, therefore, with this evidence before us to account pretty satisfactorily for the twenty millions of gold already yielded by Cali-

fornia. Here, for the present, our gossip about gold must conclude.

GEOGRAPHY OF THE EXODUS.

I beg leave to express, briefly but sincerely, my grateful acknowledgement to "A. B. G." for his frank and liberal admission in favour of the views from which he formerly so essentially differed; and I rejoice in believing that since differences of opinion on the main points of physical geography are so satisfactorily adjusted, many persons, who would have set aside the subject as a doubtful speculation, may now be induced to follow us in the path we have each done our best to clear of obstacles.

The question now started by A. B. G. as to the probable state and depth of the former strait to the north of the Gulf of Suez, at the time of the Exodus, involves the expression of an opinion that I had fully anticipated might be entertained by many who would not have either the desire or the opportunity to mention their views and invite an investigation of the question. I thought it very desirable that such a question should not thus be left to the mercy of mere opinion and conjecture, while there were any facts accessible to observation—though as yet unobserved—which, if ascertained, could place the question beyond a doubt. As I learned from Mr. Stephenson that he proposed returning to Egypt in the autumn, I availed myself of the chance held out by this intention to recommend to his special attention a few additional circumstances, calculated both to furnish data for verifying the particular point upon which A. B. G.'s suggestions turn—and to give more precision to the details of a theory which Mr. Stephenson's valuable and well directed observations have already done so much to establish in its main features. As Mr. Stephenson was so obliging as to say that if the details which I required happened to fall within the line of his observations, or were procurable, he would bear them in mind, we can only await the issue, in hope that even if we should not succeed in obtaining all we want to clear up the point, some useful fact may nevertheless be elicited, of sufficient weight to incline the scale of opinion on the side of truth.

To ascertain by observations of physical phenomena the absolute depth of the strait in the time of Moses—the levels having been subsequently altered—is, of course, impossible. But the points to which I have endeavoured to direct attention—and which I need not here particularize—must certainly enable us to judge whether the part of the former strait which is now the lowest—namely, that nearest the empty basin—has always been the lowest,—or whether its two extremities had once been level or nearly so, though the Suez end is now higher by six feet; and, moreover, how much of this small excess is due to mechanical accumulation, to be deducted in our estimate, should we discover that the amount of elevation has been greater southward than northward, as a variety of circumstances lead one to suppose.

The identity of the great empty basin with the often discussed bitter lakes of Strabo, is a collateral question of only secondary importance. It may be a matter of opinion; yet opinion, to stand, must be supported by fact. I leave it to those who prefer the opinion of their identity to explain how—under that hypothesis—it can possibly happen, that the volumes of fresh water which rolled over that basin, have neither left on the surface of its bottom a vestige of the organic remains peculiar to fresh water, nor washed away, disturbed, or covered up the lines of loose beach observed on its shores, all of which consist of marine species?—how, under that hypothesis, it happens that the inorganic residue of the basin can possibly be found, as it is, to consist of saturated brine, and of crystallized lumps of salt, which the Arabs have been gathering for use and trade during several centuries, without any apparent exhaustion of Nature's abundant store?

In the face of such significant facts as these, I cannot avoid ranking the identity of the great single basin with the fresh-water lakes of Strabo.*

* "Τὸν πικρῶν καλονείνων λιμῶν, ἀλ πρότερον μὲν ἡσαν πικραί."—This surely never can have been meant to refer to a single basin or lake.

among the commonly accredited errors which more accurate recent observations have disproved; and I would not have thought the point, *per se*, worth contending for, but that we never can know how far an important truth may be obscured by the tacit admission of an apparently unimportant error connected with it—in any department of knowledge.

FANNY CORBAUX.

OUR WEEKLY GOSSIP.

ANOTHER Revolution—and the aspects of Paris are changed and changing daily. Like the great place of Paris—*Place Impériale, Place de la Révolution, Place de la Concorde*—or whatever else may be its newest name—the finest edifice in that capital has again changed hands, name and functions. Yesterday it was known for the second time as the Pantheon—to-day it is again St. Génève. Commonly it is said in France that the Hôtel de Ville is Paris,—that the master of every revolution is he who can establish himself in its saloons. But if the Hôtel de Ville sways revolution, the fellow edifice in the Quartier Latin is its humble follower. The changing thought of each few years in France makes this structure its index. Every succession of dynasty, every grand vicissitude in Europe, has left its hand-writing on those walls. The story of the Pantheon is a history of the world during the last century. And what a harlequinade it seems! The structure was begun as an expiatory offering to the Church by a repentant mistress of Louis XV. In '59 the respectable revolutionists, Pétion, Lameth & Co. transformed it into a French Pantheon,—and when Mirabeau died, his corpse was installed as the first of the new gods! Voltaire and Rousseau followed to the same vaults. A new revolution came—Robespierre rose to power,—and the ashes of Mirabeau were displaced for those of Marat. What a story is told in such a change! Another revolution—Robespierre falls,—Marat, just royally interred, is dug up and cast into a sink in the Rue Montmartre,—whereupon the bones of Mirabeau are carried back. This grotesque and horrible playing with dead men's bones was renewed at almost every turn of fortune until 1795,—when the National Convention stopped the outrage by a decree prohibiting the burial of any one in the Pantheon until ten years after death. Yet another revolution,—and an imperial mandate made it a mausoleum for Napoleon's marshals and senators. The Restoration saw it re-converted into a church. After the July days, it again became a Pantheon in name; but was considered chiefly as a monument to the friends of Louis Philippe,—the names of all those who fell in the contest which made him a king being engraved on its walls. The republicans of 1848 restored it to its old office of receptacle to the illustrious dead,—and began to decorate it with a series of statues and pictures taken from classic history and fable. But this change was scarcely commenced ere it became a sort of headquarters to the socialist revolution, and Cavaignac had to clear it with grape-shot. One of his cannon balls struck the colossal figure of Liberty, and carried off the upper part of its head, leaving the mutilated figure on its high pedestal. This was a happy hit. Liberty without brains—how striking an image of the revolutionary Genius of France!

Another—the last—or rather the latest—revolution in that strange capital,—and the Pantheon is a Pantheon no longer. Dragoons and Jesuits now occupy the edifice where rest the ashes of Voltaire and Rousseau, and which France has so often solemnly dedicated to her great men. What is the next name?—Probably we shall not know for a week or so.

The entire collection of maps exhibited in the Austrian department of the Crystal Palace have been presented to the Geographical Society of London:—another instance of the facility with which the most valuable part of the late unrivalled collection of products might have been kept together as a universal museum.

Some of our readers are perhaps aware that within the last ten years Mr. Stewart, Col. Rawlinson, and Mr. Layard have added to the antiquarian treasures of the British Museum certain curious bowls made of terra cotta, and found buried

some twenty feet deep amidst the ruins of Babylon. These bowls are upwards of fifteen in number, and generally six inches broad and three or four in depth. Most of them have inscriptions inside, commencing at the bottom and extending in a spiral line towards the left till, after some revolutions ranging from five to ten in number, close at the brim. The characters and language of the inscriptions have hitherto baffled all our antiquarians. We are informed, however, that very recently both have been satisfactorily explained by Mr. Thomas Ellis, who is engaged in the Oriental Manuscript department of the British Museum. The language is Chaldee,—and the characters somewhat resemble the Phoenician or square Chaldean. At the same time, there are found certain words and terms peculiar to the Jews only; and thence Mr. Ellis infers that the inscriptions must either have been written by the Jews during their captivity in Babylon, or by a remnant of that people who never returned from Assyria.—We expect shortly to be favoured by Mr. Ellis with a translation of these interesting monuments of antiquity.

We are informed, that Major Cunningham has completed his work on 'The Bhilsa Topes, or Buddhist Monuments of Central India,'—and that the Governor General of India has sent the manuscript home to the Court of Directors, strongly recommending the Court to publish it at their own expense.—The work is illustrated by thirty-two plates.—We may mention, too, that Dr. William Freund, the philologist, whose works are well known to the readers of the *Athenæum*, is in London, engaged in constructing a German-English and English-German Dictionary on his new system. He hopes to complete the work in the course of next year.—Shakspeare has found a Swedish translator, in Dr. Hagberg, Professor at the Royal University of Upsal. The complete works of the poet have been published (for the first time in that tongue) by him, at Stockholm, in twelve octavo volumes.

If rumour is not wholly in the wrong, the editor of the 'Grenville Papers,' now on the eve of publication, is in favour of Lord Temple as a claimant for the authorship of the letters of Junius. The forthcoming number of the *Quarterly* is, we understand, to contain an article dedicated to 'Junius';—but what new information our quarterly contemporary is to produce on the subject we have not heard.

Every boy in England is taught to believe that the Chinese consider him a little "barbarian." The belief may be said to grow with his growth and strengthen with his strength. They who go to Canton go out with that impression,—they who return bring it back. The term usually exasperates the man to whom it is addressed. More than once it has provoked active hostility. Lord Napier was extremely wroth with the mandarin who applied the term to him; and the writer of a celebrated letter to Lord Palmerston on the Chinese question named that as our first and greatest grievance against the government of the Celestial Empire.—Mr. P. P. Thoms, however, contends that the whole thing is a mistake,—that the Chinese describe us by no such word. He declares that the word *man*, which Gutzlaff and Morrison translate "barbarian," means simply "southern merchant." He seems to think that the Chinese rather mean to compliment us by the epithet—as he says they did a friend of his when they called him Hung Mow Kwei, literally "red haired devil." The friend was choleric until Mr. Thoms applied the healing balm of his own ingenuity.—"Red," he observed to his irate countryman, "is beautiful to the Chinese; they extol the peach-flower, because of its form and delicate red-colour; all the fronts of their houses are red; they use the vermilion pencil. If red be thus beautiful how can we designate Europeans red-haired people impudently?"

He continued, "there is no occasion for us to take it in its most offensive signification, that of devil, it being a general term for spirits, whether good or evil, and equivalent to our word spirit."—Thus "red-haired devil" becomes "beautiful spirit."

Among the signs of our ever-increasing provision for cheap reading, we notice the recent opening of

of Babylon, number, and or four in institutions inside, ending in a revolutions close at the inscriptions, particularly drawn to two of these useful little institutions—one in High Holborn, another in Cheapside. Both are conveniently fitted-up with reading desks, chairs and sofas,—and the tables are covered with reviews, newspapers and magazines.

Mr. Ellis of Exeter writes to us in reference to the paragraph on Time Reform in our last week's *Graphic*, to point out an error of the pen in relation to the local time of Bristol, and to remind us of his own claim to the merit, be it much or little, of the more recent movement in favour of uniformity. "A child," we wrote, "born at five minutes to twelve on Monday night *national* time would be born on Tuesday morning by the *local* reckoning":—of course the two words here italicized should be transposed. The literal error does not affect the argument,—and was one that every reader would correct for himself.—We believe Mr. Ellis has done good and useful service in this matter,—and we are happy to receive the information which he has sent us. In advocating the Time Reform we are not forgetful of the argument used in many towns on the east and south coasts—such as Yarmouth, Ipswich, Portsmouth, Exeter, Plymouth, and Falmouth—for adhering to the old method of computation,—namely, that the tide tables by which all maritime matters in the several harbours are regulated are calculated according to local meridians. No doubt it would occasion some trouble to change the tables,—but we are strongly of opinion that the trouble would be slight compared with the hourly inconvenience of the old system.

The Chair of Poetry at Oxford is about to become vacant. The Venerable Archdeacon Garbett, the present Professor, retires next term; and we notice that already several candidates are in the field for the appointment; including—the Rev. Dr. Goulburn, head master of Rugby School,—the Rev. T. L. Claughton, M.A., of Trinity College,—and the Rev. J. E. Bode, M.A., rector of Westwell, and late student of Christ Church. At the last election, as our readers will recollect, the contest was made the occasion for a trial of strength between the two great religious parties in the university,—the High Church party supporting Mr. Williams, and the Evangelicals Mr. Garbett. What these doctrinal questions have to do with lectures on poetry, it would be difficult to explain to the uninitiated.

The daily papers announce the death, on the 6th inst., of Mr. John Buckler the antiquary, favourably known by his book on St. Albans' Abbey,—and to be remembered honourably hereafter by his many carefully and cleverly executed drawings of English antiquities scattered no one knows where, and of portions of our architecture destroyed by time, by ignorant owners, or by equally ignorant churchwardens. He retained much of his early skill with his pencil till the last,—and had entered his eighty-first year at the time of his death.

Letters from Dublin announce the sudden death of the Rev. Dr. Sadleir, Provost of Trinity College. The *Evening Herald* says:—"Dr. Sadleir was elected to the honourable office of Fellow of Trinity College in the year 1815. He used to relate a whimsical anecdote respecting this most important event in his career. He had competed for a fellowship previously—his answering, though unsuccessful, had been distinguished. Disappointed in immediate success, he had given up the idea of further pursuing the arduous career of academic competition. On the approach of the fellowship examinations of 1815, there being then two vacancies, Dr. Sadleir, who happened at the moment to want some ready money to stock a farm which he had taken, resolved to go in for the premium, calculating that, with little exertion, his former reading would place him, in order of answering, third upon the list of candidates. His calculation was exactly realized. But in the interval between the examination and the declaration an additional vacancy was added, we believe by death, to the list; and Dr. Sadleir not only succeeded to the fellowship thus unexpectedly vacated, but, in virtue of his seniority, was adjudged the first. In 1837 Dr.

Sadleir was appointed Provost, which honourable post he continued to occupy up to the period of his decease. The Provost has died at the age of 75."

The Royal University of Berlin has been visited by death with more than common severity in the present year. The list of its illustrious dead since Christmas last includes the names of MM. Lachmann, Stuhr, Jacobi, and Erman:—and to these must now be added a fifth,—that of the late Dr. Charles Theodore Franz, who has died at Breslau at the untimely age of forty-five. For eleven years Dr. Franz occupied the chair of Classical Philology in the University of Berlin. He is the author of a variety of works:—in the first rank of which stand his *Criticisms on the Greek Tragic Poets* and his several collections of Greek and Latin inscriptions before unpublished.

Intelligence has arrived *vid* California that the Plover, which was ordered to repair to Behring's Strait and to act as a dépôt ship to the Investigator and Enterprise, has returned to Port Clarence from her summer Expedition,—having been unable to penetrate farther north than 71°. Capt. M'Clure, of the Investigator, must, however, have advanced considerably higher, as he has not sent home any despatches.—We are glad to find that the Admiralty purpose sending a steamer of 250 horse-power to Wellington Channel, in addition to the squadron which was placed under the orders of Capt. Austin.

The Royal Society of Sciences of Göttingen on the occasion of its hundredth anniversary, a fortnight since, proceeded to celebrate the occasion by, amongst other things, the election of a number of foreign members. The only English name which we find on the list of these new Associates is that of our Astronomer Royal, Mr. Airy.

No apology is needed for recurring to the subject of street improvements in the metropolis. In point of fact, it is only by keeping up a perpetual discussion on the evils of obstructed thoroughfares and narrow lanes that the locomotive part of the population of London stand any chance of obtaining a remedy for evils which at present expand with their time and their patience. It is quite a settled point that a new and wide street is required somewhere from the western end of Cheapside towards either Holborn or the Strand. As regards the present route into Holborn, Newgate Street is ridiculously insufficient—a mere lane, in fact; and the hill in Holborn is the horror of every one. The route into the Strand is scarcely better: for the stoppages and concussions at the top and bottom of Ludgate Hill are quite appalling. The difficulty hitherto has been, to hit on some practical and effectual mode of opening out a new thoroughfare without too great a disturbance of the present property. Mr. Hesketh, of the Institute of British Architects, has just published a short tract, accompanied by plans, which until something better shall be brought forward seems to be at least entitled to consideration. Mr. Hesketh proposes to carry a new high-level street in a straight line, or nearly so, from St. Paul's Church Yard to the top of Holborn Hill:—the street to be as wide as Cheapside. Mr. Hesketh, thus, would open out a new diagonal communication between Holborn and, in effect, the western end of Cheapside. It is a great merit of this plan that it would make the sites of the old Fleet Prison and of the now deserted Farringdon Market available for the improvements. The new street would also be quite level, inasmuch as it is proposed to cross the Fleet valley on arches of the proper elevation. Mr. Hesketh says, that the property to be removed in a great measure belongs to the City, and is not of great value.—This is the outline of the scheme: and without professing to give any positive opinion either for or against it, there is sufficient plainness and practicability about it to render it, as we have said, deserving of attention.

NOW OPEN.—SKETCHES and DRAWINGS, at the Gallery of the Old Water Colour Society, 5, Pall Mall East, comprising, amongst other important works, CHOICE SPECIMENS by Mr. J. M. W. Turner, Mr. G. M. Holmes, R.A., Mr. Webster, R.A., Landseer, R.A., Hart, R.A., Crawick, R.A., John Martin, K.L., Copley Fielding, Uttermole, John Lewis, Pirie, R.A., Ward, A.R.A., Egg, A.R.A., Leitch, Topham, Hunt, Holland, Lance, Duncan, Dodgson, Goodall, &c. Open daily from Ten till dusk.—Admission, 1s. SAMUEL STEPNEY, Sec. Gallery, 5, Pall Mall East.

GALLERY OF ILLUSTRATION, 14, Regent Street.—The DIORAMA of the CRYSTAL PALACE as a WINTER GARDEN, the OVERLAND MAIL to INDIA, and TAJ MEHAL will shortly close. The next is the DIORAMA of the DIAMONDS, the LIFE of HIS GRACE the Duke of Wellington. Admissions, at Three, Evenings at Eight o'clock.—Admission, 1s. 6d. and 2s.—Doors open half-an-hour before each representation.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS.

ROYAL POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION.—LECTURE by GEORGE BARKER, Esq., on the BALLAD MUSIC of ENGLAND, commencing with his celebrated entertainment "AN ENGLISH CHRISTMAS," every Evening for a fortnight, except Saturday, at Eleven o'clock, by J. J. Webb, Esq., on "WHAT'S NEW SUBURBANE LAMP," LECTURE by Dr. Bachofner on the PHILOSOPHY of SCIENTIFIC CREATION.—NUMEROUS PRIZE MODELS, WORKS OF ART, &c., from the Great Exhibition will be explained by Mr. Crisp, &c. ETC.—EXHIBITION OF VARIOUS MODELS OF MICROSCOPE, CHROMATOGRAPH, &c., DIVER AND DIVING HELM, &c. &c.—Admission, 1s.; Schools and Children under ten years of age, half-price.—Open daily from Eleven to Five, and every evening, except Saturday, from Seven till half past Ten.

SCIENTIFIC

SOCIETIES.

INSTITUTE OF BRITISH ARCHITECTS.—Dec. 15.—C. Fowler, Esq., V.P., in the chair.—Mr. J. W. Papworth concluded his paper 'On the Productions connected with Architecture in the Great Exhibition';—reviewing the various works exhibited in terra cotta and pottery, floor tiles, mosaic pavements, bricks, gold, silver, bronze, and other metal works, malachite, architectural models, paper-hangings, and productions in gutta percha, carton pierre, &c.—Professor Donaldson offered remarks, chiefly in confirmation of Mr. Papworth's observations.—The translation of a letter in ancient Greek was read from the Hellenic (Archaeological) Society at Athens, referring to some inscriptions and sculptures recently discovered under the Acropolis.

SYRO-EGYPTIAN.—Dec. 9.—J. Lee, Esq. L.L.D. in the chair.—Dr. Camps read a communication 'On Prof. Ehrenberg's Microscopic Examination of the alluvial Deposit of the Nile,' by which it appeared that the great fertility of that deposit was not so much owing to any peculiar mineral constitution, or to the presence of any great abundance of vegetable matter, as it was to the vast accumulation of extremely minute forms of microscopic animals, which by their decomposition enriched and fertilized the soil.

Dr. Holt Yates read a paper 'On the City and Port of Seleucia Pieria in the Bay of Antioch.' After a brief description of the neighbourhood, in which he has been for some years a resident proprietor,—the Doctor gave sketch of the foundation and history of this once prosperous and much frequented port of the Mediterranean. After which he described at length the existing ruins of an upper and lower city, the walls and gates, temples, amphitheatres, sepulchral grottoes, sarcophagi, and numerous other relics of antiquity,—but above all, the great tunnel or culvert cut through solid rock which has been the admiration of all travellers. Dr. Yates's great object was, however, to call attention to the port or basin, which is now in part filled up with mud and vegetation, but in others still contains water even to a considerable depth. This great basin is 2,000 feet long by 1,200 feet wide, occupying an area of 47 acres, and was, in fact, as large as the Export and Import Basins of the East and West India Docks together. It is surrounded by a wall of large blocks of stone; which is perfect on the west side, except at the point of drainage, for there is a running stream through the basin. The inner port is entirely excavated, and its canal is 1,000 feet long; the area of the outer port is about 18,000 feet square, and it affords good shelter, but is obstructed by sand. There are two moles 240 paces apart, constructed of enormous stones, and a pier, called that of St. Paul, which runs west 80 paces, and then turns north-west. Col. Chesney calculated, at the time of the Euphrates Expedition, that by availing oneself of the artificial arrangements adopted by the ancients for damming up the waters, by a wall and sluice-gate, the basin might be cleansed through the existing drain; and that being closed, the inner and outer harbours might also be cleansed through the existing entrance at an expense of some 10,000£., but that the harbour might be set in tolerable order and made available to commerce for 30,000£. Capt. William Allen, R.N., formerly of the Niger

Expedition, who has lately explored the ruins of Seleucia, and laid down the area of the port and basin accurately, had, without any knowledge of these calculations of Col. Chesney's, arrived at a similar result.—In pointing out the advantages to be derived from opening this port to commerce, Dr. Yates dwelt upon the absence of all good ports on the coast of Syria. That of Alexandretta is infamous as the most unhealthy on the whole coast, —hence, no one can reside there; whereas Seleucia and its beautiful neighbourhood is comparatively very healthy, and would soon become the most frequented spot in Syria. The navigation of the Gulf of Alexandretta is at times difficult and dangerous,—that of the Bay of Antioch is the Pasha of, which is often a source of great annoyance to ship-masters trading with Aleppo. Seleucia is under the Pasha of Aleppo. Between Alexandretta and Aleppo there is the formidable Pass of Bailan, the Syrian gates of old;—between Seleucia and Antioch and Aleppo, comparatively open country. Cilicia is a country much disturbed by local dissensions; the valley of Seleucia is mainly inhabited by peaceful Christians and Assyrians. There is plenty of fresh water. In fact, the same circumstances that existed when Seleucia became the port of Babylonia and Mesopotamia, and which induced Col. Chesney to make it the landing-place of the Euphrates Expedition, exist to the present day, and point out the great importance of opening the old harbour, as the very best (especially for steam) in North Syria, and the most advantageous point for opening commerce and intercommunication from this direction with the Euphrates and Tigris, with Mesopotamia, Kurdistan, Babylonia, Persia, India, and the far East.

MEETING FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.
TUES. Civil Engineers, 8.—Annual Meeting.

THE IPSWICH MUSEUM.

The Anniversary Meeting of the Ipswich Museum was held on Thursday last. On the previous Wednesday evening, Sir Charles Lyell delivered a lecture in the New Corn Exchange 'On the White Chalk.' After describing the fossils of the chalk of England and the mode of its formation, he proceeded to examine the question of progressive development,—drawing attention to the fact that in the great chalk formation no remains of mammalia had been found, although they occurred in the oolites below. He contended that we could not infer from the absence of remains the absence of the higher forms of life. In reference to the general theory of progressive development, he stated that every day was bringing to light new facts which showed that the higher organisms were found lower down than they had been supposed to exist. He drew attention to the teeth of a mammifer that had been found in the trias, or New Red Sandstone. He also exhibited a drawing and casts of an aquatic salamander,—and also the foot-prints of a tortoise that had been found in the Old Red Sandstone of Elgin in Scotland. After alluding to the foot-steps of the tortoise found by Mr. Logan in the lower silurian rocks of America, he proposed to account for the varied forms of animal and vegetable life on the theory that they were adapted to the former changes in the geography and climate of the globe.—At the anniversary meeting, which was held in the Museum, the Bishop of Norwich took the chair. Mr. George Ransome, as secretary, read the annual report; which was highly favourable,—showing that the collection of objects had greatly increased, that lectures had been delivered, that the debt on the Institution was diminished, and that upwards of 60,000 persons had visited the Museum during the past year. The meeting was then addressed by the President of the Museum, Prof. Henslow, Lord Arthur Hervey, Sir Henry Austin, Sir Charles Lyell, Mr. J. S. Bowerbank, the Rev. E. Sidney, and other gentlemen. The Bishop afterwards presided at the anniversary dinner, —where speeches were made by Mr. J. Scott Russell, Mr. J. Gould, the Mayor of Ipswich, and others. In the evening a *soirée* was held, when Sir Charles Lyell gave a further account

of the recent discovery of reptiles in the Old Red Sandstone. Professor Henslow exhibited some Indian arrows presented by Sir Robert Schomburgk, and also gave an account of the action of the Wouzali poison. Dr. Lankester drew attention to a new specimen in the Museum of the great seal *Halicharax Gryphus*, which measured nine feet six inches in length, and had recently been taken on the Fern Islands. Mr. Bartlett gave a short account of the dodo and solitaire; and exhibited bones which led him to the conclusion, that besides the species of dodo whose form he had restored for the Great Exhibition, there formerly existed another and larger species to which the descriptions of travellers more directly applied than to the species of which remains still exist in England. Mr. Gould exhibited several series of drawings for the works on which he is now engaged, and described the habits of the more interesting forms. Several new members joined the Museum on this occasion;—and we have great pleasure in congratulating the people of Ipswich on the success of this very creditable Institution.

THE STEREOSCOPE.

The phenomena of vision have engaged the attention of our most acute philosophers; and various have been the theories propounded to explain the result of single vision with a pair of eyes, which are of necessity under the influence of two impressions. The researches of Wheatstone have done more than those of any other man to place this phenomenon in a clear light. In his stereoscope we survey two images viewed at the angle of reflexion converted into a solid body,—that is, body conveying to the mind an impression of length, breadth, and thickness. This instrument has recently been modified by Sir David Brewster; who, by cutting a lens into halves, and placing each half so as to represent an eye—the distance between them being $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches—has very beautifully imitated the mechanical conditions of the eye. Such an instrument is used as a camera for photographic purposes; and daguerreotypes obtained in it, as we have seen them executed with great delicacy by Mr. Claudet, are examined under a similar instrument, the binocular stereoscope. The result is, a mimic reality of the most deceptive character.

We have looked at views of the Crystal Palace and its varied wonders in this little instrument—which does not very much differ in appearance from an opera-glass—extending the whole length—every object represented in three dimensions, groups of figures, statues, &c.—which have been copied by the daguerreotype, but copied at slightly different angles, to correspond with the difference between the two eyes,—and which, when looked at under ordinary conditions, present mere flat pictures, correct in perspective and light and shade. They become in the stereoscope beautifully raised, in the highest relief, standing out from the surface as perfect solids to the deceived sense. Mr. Claudet is actively engaged in applying this instrument to portraiture; and it is curious to survey a group of portraits in the stereoscope,—each one standing apart from every other, and all exhibiting the rotundity of life.

Professor Wheatstone has just carried his inquiries a step further; and in the invention of the pseudoscopy shown how the senses may convey false impressions to the mind.

THE COLLODION PROCESS IN PHOTOGRAPHY.

Since you published my short communication on the use of the bath in the collodion process in photography, I have received many inquiries on this and several other points in the manipulation, which I should like to answer through the medium of your valuable journal; and at the same time I wish to communicate a peculiar process of whitening and blackening the collodion pictures which may possibly prove interesting. I will first describe this whitening, and afterwards offer a few remarks on the manipulation generally.

The picture being thoroughly washed in plenty of water, after fixing with hyposulphite of soda, is treated in the following manner.—Prepare a saturated solution of bichloride of mercury in muriatic

acid. Add one part of this solution to six of water; pour a small quantity of it over the picture at one corner, and allow it to run evenly over the glass. It will be found immediately to deepen the tones of the picture considerably, and the positive image will almost entirely disappear; but presently a peculiar whitening will come on, and in a short time a beautifully delicate white picture will be brought out. The negative character of the drawing will be almost entirely destroyed, the white positive image alone remaining. This picture, after being well washed and dried, can be varnished and preserved as a positive; but, nevertheless, even after this bleaching it can be changed into a deep-toned negative, many shades darker than it was originally, by immersing it, after a thorough washing, in a weak solution of hyposulphite of soda. In a short time the white picture will entirely disappear, and a black negative image will be the result. It is very singular that the picture can be alternately changed from white positive to black negative many times in succession, and very often with improvement to the picture. By the above process a most perfect white or a deep black negative picture can be obtained, quite distinct from each other. The first point which I wish to enjoin in the manipulation is, the great cleanliness absolutely necessary. If this be neglected, no good result can ever be obtained. In cleaning the glass to prepare it for the collodion film, a dry cloth, to give the last polish, will be found all that is required;—only taking care to avoid using a cloth the least soiled with hyposulphite of soda, for this forms with silver a peculiarly sweet gummy combination, very difficult to get rid of when once either on the cloth or on the glass. I must strongly recommend that the glass used for this film should be an inch longer than the drawing required, in order that it be used as a handle during the different operations. The furrowed appearance which the film of collodion will have when dried on the glass can easily be avoided by moving the glass vertically backwards and forwards over the neck of the bottle, at the same time resting the corner of the glass on the bottle.

The nitrate of silver solution should be kept clear by filtration; and when this is attended to, there will be no necessity to protect the solution in the glass bath from the light. Neither is there any need to add iodide of silver to this solution, when used of the strength of 30 grs. Nit. Sil. to 1 oz. of water. The film after being poured on the glass should be allowed to dry for a few seconds in the air before being placed in the silver bath, and should be kept in it for at least a minute, otherwise the drawing will be streaky after the development. The energy of the pyro-gallic solution can be increased by the addition of a small quantity of a saturated solution of protosulphate of iron, about 3 drops to 1 oz. of pyro-gallic solution.

A weak solution of iodide of potassium will be found to fix the picture and remove the iodide of silver from the film; also a saturated solution of chloride of sodium will fix the picture as far as the action of light is concerned.

I have been anxious to give this collodion process a name, but have not been able to find one that would at all indicate the peculiar changes which I have above described. Mr. Talbot in his new process uses the word Amphitype to indicate the nature of the pictures; but a word which can be translated "ambiguous" would not be appropriate for the collodion pictures,—for there is, in truth, no mistake about the distinctive character of the positive and negative drawings produced.—The third kind of image alluded to by Mr. Talbot as peculiar to his process can be obtained equally well on the collodion film by stopping the development early. The collodion, to bear the changes which I have described above, must be very good; and this is particularly essential when operating in the open air, and when the pictures are rolled up according to my published process. I may remark, that for sketching from nature, and at times when expedition is necessary, this process will be found invaluable. With the camera adapted for this purpose which I have in use, a party can make a day's excursion and be entirely independent of any aid; and it is possible with ease to bring home a dozen

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FREDERICK SCOTT ARCHER.

FINE ARTS

FINE-ART GOSSIP. — The Professorship of Anatomy in the Royal Academy has, we hear, just been resigned by Mr. Joseph Henry Green. To the task of a teacher of the physiology of the human form Mr. Green brought many qualifications. Professionally well informed in his structure, — he united to his technical knowledge an extensive acquaintance with its highest manifestations in Greek Sculpture of the greatest times, no less than in the works of the masters of painting of the mediæval school. Learned in the classical literature of the ancients as well as in the critical dissertations of the modern, relating especially to Fine Art, he was ever rich and delicious in illustration. This he embodied in views conceived in the transcendental spirit of the German school, of which his friend Coleridge and his own class were exponents. His style was elegant and flowing — his manner and delivery easy and unrestrained. — It is to be hoped that in the appointment of his successor a gentleman as well qualified by general attainments and professional knowledge, may be selected for the advantage of the students and of the profession of Art.

It may reasonably be anticipated that the third season of the "Architectural Exhibition" will prove more successful than the preceding ones. Transferred from Pall Mall to the Portland Gallery in Regent Street, it will have the advantage of a more spacious *locale*: — which increased accommodation has become requisite, since in addition to graphic designs the ensuing Exhibition is to comprise specimens of various manufactured articles and materials employed in architecture, as well as models and inventions. By this, its interest for the general public is likely to be considerably enhanced. The raising of the price of admission to a shilling (catalogue included) is also, we think, a judicious measure, — though it was not carried, we understand, without very strong opposition. — It remains to be seen whether the affront put on Architecture by the Royal Academy last season, when it was immured in the little hole-and-corner named the Octagon Room, will have stirred up some of those who held back before to send designs to the Portland Gallery. — One circumstance likely to operate not a little unfavourably is, that the Architectural Exhibition will not be in "the season." On the other hand, however, it will have the advantage of anticipating, and thereby avoiding collision with, more popular rivals. At the early January hour of the year it may prove very acceptable, if not as a banquet, as a *Breakfast*.

The best idea that can be given of the arduous labours of Mr. Layard, in obtaining for England the treasures which we possess in the shape of marbles from Nineveh, will be found conveyed by the pencil of Mr. Burford and his associates in the new Panorama opened this week at the Gallery in Leicester Square. Viewed as a work of Art, the Panorama of Nimroud is entitled to very high commendation. Some of the distant effects are especially charming. Viewed, on the other hand, as a grouping together of every locality and incident made memorable by discoveries or by the narrative powers of Mr. Layard and M. Botta — the picture will be found highly skilful and illustrative. Mr. Burford has been assisted by Mr. Layard; so that his new Panorama may be said to carry with it the recommendation of approval from one fully entitled to be heard on a subject which he has made pre-eminently his own.

Fathers and mothers who have sons in India — and all who are interested in the geographical features of our great Asiatic settlement — may spend an hour and a half very pleasantly in visiting the Diorama of Hindostan at the Baker Street Bazaar. The spectator is made to ascend the stream from the flat region of Calcutta to the glorious range of the Himalayas, — and everything of interest in the way is mapped and pictured with the fidelity of a geographer and the skill of an

artist. We remember once to have heard an enthusiast soldier observe with respect to India, that two things alone had not disappointed him in our Eastern settlement, — the Taj at Agra and the Ganges in full flood. The Taj was to be seen during the present year at the Gallery of Illustration, — and what the Ganges is like may be seen now in Baker Street without the inconvenience of an Eastern sun.

We may mention for the information of the thousands who are admirers of Sir Joseph Paxton's structure in Hyde Park, that his designs for the Exhibition Building at New York have been exhibiting during a part of the week at the office of the Exhibition, 43, Clerkenwell Street, Piccadilly.

The Stephenson Testimonial is about now to take form and substance. An amount of nearly 3,000*l.* has been raised — including subscriptions from about 5,000 workmen, in sums ranging from one penny to five shillings. It is said to have been decided that the statue shall be erected in the Courtyard at the Euston Station. — The Elliott monument makes little progress: — the appeal beyond the boundaries of Sheffield having met with scarcely any response, except in Manchester. The Sheffield papers state that the amount already collected and the subscriptions due do not exceed 250*l.*

How trite yet how true is the saying — a prophet hath no honour in his own country! If the foreigner is disappointed at seeing in the streets of London no monument to Shakespeare, — what Englishman is not astonished to find no statue or pedestal erected to the memory of Columbus in Genoa, the city of monuments and palaces? Every country with which the illustrious navigator became connected has raised some memorial — except that of his birth. Spain, Cuba, South America have long honoured themselves by their efforts to honour him. All the world has shown its pride in the hero except the city of which he is and ever must be the chiefest illustration. At length, however, it is aroused from its apathy. Inspired perhaps by the proposed colossal statue to be erected on the coast of Spain — that fine idea, of the further progress of which we should be glad to hear — the Council-General of Genoa has contributed 15,000*f.* towards a fund for erecting a statue to Columbus in that city.

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA

LONDON THURSDAY CONCERTS. Exeter Hall. — In consequence of the Christmas and New Year's days falling on Thursdays, the SECOND CONCERT will take place on THURSDAY, Jan. 8, 1852; upon which occasion the most eminent performers, Vocal and Instrumental, will appear, assisted by the GRAND MUSICAL CHORUS, which elicited such enthusiastic applause at the First Concert. Admission 1*l.*, 2*s.*, and 4*s.* Full particulars will be duly announced.

MISS DOLBY'S SOIRÉES. — There was much variety and novelty at the last of these. Among other attractions must be particularized the posthumous *Allegro brillante* of Mendelssohn [ante, p. 1153], spiritedly played by Mrs. John Macfarren and Mr. W. H. Holmes. The composition is one of great difficulty, from the extreme animation demanded of the performers. — Miss Cicely Nott, again, must be mentioned, as a new songstress of whom something may be expected under certain conditions. Her voice seems to be one of those light, wiry, ready *soprani* voices which are not common in England, — reminding us of the voice of Madame Ugalde, — and we should imagine of considerable executive facility. When Miss Nott shall have mastered her nervousness, she will find it well to direct her attention to quality of sound and accuracy of intonation, — both of which are apt to be *desiderata* in voices resembling hers in quality. — Two more of M. Gounod's Songs of France — "O, ma belle Rebelle," and "Le Tambourin" — very well sung by Miss Dolby, were most warmly received. "Slow to move" as are the English, according to the author of "Tremaine," and oftentimes too acquiescent in mediocrity, — that they are not deaf to first-rate merit is proved in M. Gounod's case by the attention which his songs are already exciting. — Miss Dolby sang Rossi's noble "Ah, rendimi," too, very finely. — She was further assisted by the Misses Pyne, Mr. Whitworth, Messrs. Sloper, Blagrove, Lucas, Lazarus, and by Signor Biletti as accompanist.

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC GOSSIP. — The usual Christmas performances of the "Messiah" by our three principal Choral Societies have begun. — On Tuesday a concert in aid of the Hungarian and Polish Fund was given by Miss Kate Hickson. — The last *Réunion des Arts* for the year was held on Wednesday evening. — On Thursday evening was to be given the first of three chamber concerts at the *Marylebone Institution*: the others are fixed for the 8th of January and the 12th of February.

The second *Thursday Concert* at Exeter Hall is postponed till the 8th of January. From this, it would seem, as if we had another "false start" to record: — one, however, conveying no reflection on the good taste of the London public. So far from it, these reiterated failures are only so many reiterated proofs that without some special purpose and attraction a congregation is not to be assembled and kept together. — The notions which we have so often expressed with regard to the appetite of our countrymen for English (not *quasi* German, *quasi* French, or *quasi* Italian) music — are receiving a new confirmation from the *Illustrated London News*. This journal is now publishing one hundred English melodies, of which the musical arrangement is under the superintendence of Sir H. R. Bishop, — the poetical editorship having been intrusted to Mr. C. Mackay.

It is said that an opera by Mr. Howard Glover is in rehearsal at the Haymarket Theatre.

In what may be called one of his recent *feuilletons* contributed to an American periodical, Mr. N. P. Willis announces the approaching arrival in the United States of Madame Sontag, M. Thalberg, and Herr Fischek in company. This, however, may possibly prove to be merely a mixing up of three distinct rumours.

The re-establishment of perfect order and prosperity in Paris (to accept the statements of French official journals) seems as yet only partially accompanied by the resumption of the musical undertakings which were palsied into a momentary pause by M. le Président's *Coup d'état*. The *Gazette Musicale* of this week is almost entirely barren of Parisian news, beyond the facts that Madame Tedesco is to try the part of *Fides*, — that a new opera by M. Bazin is in preparation at the *Opéra Comique*, — that Mlle. Cruvelli is about to appear in "La Figlia del Reggimento," — and that Signor Ferlotti, a baritone, has been engaged by Mr. Lumley. — Having last week promulgated the not very favourable impression of M. Limnander's new opera, "Le Château de la Barbe Bleue," which we derived from the French journals, we ought to state that the testimony of M. Berlioz in the *Journal des Débats* is of an entirely opposite import. "The opera," writes he, "belongs to the small number of those works which obtain a real success and which deserve it." * * * The music is the work of a skilful — a very skilful — composer who finds the beauty which he seeks. * * * The ideas of M. Limnander are various and lovely: — his melody is always sweet — his harmony is pure and distinguished — his orchestra is brilliant, sonorous, rich, without grotesque eccentricity, without ever falling into the error of dull sonority, of effects of brute force, or of coarse drummetry, — (we must be forgiven for coining a word to render the original French one "Zambourinisme"). * * * "To sum up," concludes M. Berlioz, "the score of the 'Château de la Barbe Bleue' is, to my judgment, one of the best which we have heard in Paris for a long time." — The same critic commends M. Dufrêne, the new tenor, as being a real tenor, and, as such, a welcome rarity at the *Opéra Comique*.

A recent communication from Herr Rellstab to the *Gazette Musicale*, noticing a professional visit paid to Berlin by those eminent Quartett players the Herren Müller of Brunswick, mentions also, that other Müllers of a second generation are now earning distinction as performers of chamber music. Herr Rellstab further calls attention to the fact that new musical families are beginning to make themselves known: — announcing a concert about to be given at Berlin by the five brothers Tschirch of Silesia. There are seven of the brotherhood in all, — all of them composers, though only five appear in public. In these domestic conservatories

artistic ideas and traditions stand a fair chance of being cherished. There we may look to find something of real enthusiasm for and interest in music in place of that slackness of enterprise and that small curiosity which, in our days of luxurious living and easy acquirement of a little knowledge, discouragingly distinguish the student that is from the student that was and the student that ought to be. It may not be altogether instinct and genius, but something, too, of household influence, which has given to the world such families of artists as the Kembles, the Garcias, the Calcotts.

A paragraph in the foreign journals, said to come from Austria, states that Madame von Weber, the widow of the composer, who has for some years been resident at Vienna, has applied to the Emperor of Austria to be permitted to dispose of the three original MS. scores of her husband's operas 'Der Freischütz,' 'Euryanthe,' and 'Oberon.' These, it is added, were in the Royal Library at Vienna: and she purposes offering them to the three sovereigns of Saxony, Prussia, and England,—in which respective countries the operas in question were severally first produced. The Emperor, continues the paragraph, has acceded to her wish, and caused the MSS. to be delivered up.—There is some mistake here. 'Euryanthe' was not produced at Berlin,—but at Vienna;—and the original piano-forte arrangement is dedicated to the Emperor Francis the First of Austria.

Among the arrangements made by Mr. Bunn, we understand that Miss Helen Faust is engaged for a limited number of nights.

Miss Laura Keene has taken an engagement with Mr. C. Mathews.—Mrs. Chatterley, too, after an absence from the stage of many years, is about to re-appear at the *Lyceum Theatre*,—it is naturally presumed with a view of succeeding to the heritage of Mrs. Glover.

MISCELLANEA

Extraordinary Natural Phenomenon.—Intelligence has been received at Lloyd's, under date Malta, Monday, 8th inst., of a most awful occurrence at the Island of Sicily:—which had been swept by two enormous water-spouts, accompanied by a terrific hurricane. Those who witnessed the phenomenon described the water-spouts as two immense spherical bodies of water reaching from the clouds, their cones nearly touching the earth, and, as far as could be judged, at a quarter of a mile apart, travelling with immense velocity. They passed over the island near Marsala. In their progress houses were unroofed, trees uprooted, men and women, horses, cattle and sheep, were raised up, drawn into their vortex, and borne on to destruction. During their passage rain descended in cataracts, accompanied with hailstones of enormous size and masses of ice. Going over Castellamare, near Stabia, it destroyed half the town, and washed 200 of the inhabitants into the sea, who all perished. Upwards of 500 persons have been destroyed by this terrible visitation, and an immense amount of property,—the country being laid waste for miles. The shipping in the harbour suffered severely, many vessels being destroyed and their crews drowned. After the occurrence numbers of dead human bodies were picked up, all frightfully mutilated and swollen.

Professor Longfellow's 'Golden Legend.'—As some doubt seems to exist as to the origin of the story which forms the subject of Prof. Longfellow's new poem, I trust that I am not intrusive when I state that it is taken from an old Swabian legend, known as that of 'The Poor Henry' ('der arme Heinrich').—Hartmann von der Aue, one of the glories of the Hohenstaufen period, adopted it as subject for a poem, which is about as celebrated as the 'Parzival' of Wolfram of Eschenbach, or the 'Tristan' of Godfrey of Strasburg, and which has been translated by Simrock, Büsching and Koch, on three several occasions. Hartmann's poem, I should observe, ends happily. Henry, in spite of his disease, is magnanimous enough not to let the girl sacrifice her life; and when he is restored by the bounty of Heaven, he rewards her devotion with his hand. I am, &c.

JOHN OXFORD.

To CORRESPONDENTS.—Pictor.—J. F.—A Lady received P.Q.—Our Correspondent who addresses us on the subject of Thomas Wright, the "Maneater Howard," has surely read our remarks last week with attention. Our views are precisely those which he writes to urge. Of social services rendered to Manchester we commend the recognition to the men of that great and wealthy city.

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